

# BFCC MAGPIE



APRIL 2025

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## SPRING FLING KICKS OFF APRIL 15TH!

Spring is here, and what better way to celebrate than with Spring Fling! 🐣 Join us on **Tuesday, April 15th**, from **2:00 PM to 4:00 PM** in and around the **Student Commons** area for an exciting afternoon packed with games, races, and good times!

There's something for everyone, whether you're up for some friendly competition or just want to cheer on your friends. Here's what's in store:

👟 **Men's High Heel Race & Ladies' Boot Race** – Can you keep your balance and outrun the competition? Prizes await the top three racers!

🍉 **Staff vs. Students Watermelon Eating Contest** – Who will claim victory in this fast-paced, fruit-filled face-off?

🏹 **Staff vs. Students Tipi Pitching Race** – Speed, skill, and teamwork will determine the champions of this unique challenge!

👁️ **Blindfold Box Challenge** – A true test of balance and endurance—contestants march in place inside a box while blindfolded, and the last person still inside wins!

Whether you're competing, cheering, or just enjoying the energy, Spring Fling is the perfect way to kick back, have some laughs, and make great memories. Don't miss out—see you there!

## STUDENT EASTER EGG HUNT

Join the Student Senate for an exciting Easter Egg Hunt on Tuesday, **April 15th**, starting at **9:30 AM**—keep searching until all the eggs are found! 🐣

🔍 Find the Golden Egg for a special prize!

🥚 Turn in your eggs to Lisa Aimsback, Kane Gilham, Mona Kipling, or Tayen England in the Career Center to claim your reward.

## IMPORTANT DATES!

- **APRIL 3RD:** WORKFORCE SUMMIT - STICK GAME ARBOR - 8:00AM-4:00PM
- **APRIL 16TH:** ELDERS LUNCH - EAGLE SHIELDS - 11:30AM-2:00PM
- **APRIL 18TH:** GOOD FRIDAY (BFCC CLOSED)
- **APRIL 21ST:** EASTER MONDAY (BFCC CLOSED)
- **APRIL 28TH:** LAST DAY FOR TOTAL STUDENT WITHDRAW
- **APRIL 28TH-MAY 2ND:** FALL 2025 PRE-REGISTRATION

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- **MONDAYS:** GRIEF TALKING CIRCLE - CEREMONY ROOM - 12:30PM
- **TUESDAYS (BIWEEKLY):** SOUP TUESDAY - KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS ROOM
- **WEDNESDAYS:** CRAFT WEDNESDAYS - KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS ROOM - 2:00PM - 4:00PM
- **FRIDAYS:** CRAFT FRIDAYS - MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY - ALL DAY
- **EVERYDAY:** WORKOUT ROOM OPEN

## MARCH BLACKFEET WORDS OF THE MONTH

- ALMOST - OMAT
- ELK - PONOK'A
- GREEN - SAISSKSIIMOKOINAATSI
- HORSE (ELK DOG) - PONOKAOMITAA

## CELEBRATING TERRA BRAUHN'S ACHIEVEMENT AT THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SUMMIT

We're excited to announce that our colleague, Terra Brauhn, will present her poster, Empowering Educators through Culturally Relevant Early Childhood Education, at the 3rd Annual Early Childhood Education Summit, hosted by the University of Montana's Institute for Early Childhood Education. The event takes place April 3-5, 2025, in Missoula, Montana.

Terra's work highlights Blackfeet Community College's innovative approach to supporting early childhood educators on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Through a tailored Child Development Associate (CDA) program, developed in partnership with the Blackfeet Early Childhood Center, BFCC empowers community members to enhance their skills, pursue higher education, and contribute to the educational development of their community. The program offers flexible, stackable credits toward degrees in Early Childhood Education, accommodating working students' schedules. Additionally, it integrates trauma-informed teaching practices and emphasizes a culturally relevant curriculum rooted in Blackfeet culture and language. The summit is designed for teachers, coaches, and school leaders dedicated to early learning. Attendees will participate in breakout sessions, visit the UM Learning and Belonging (LAB) School, and engage in discussions on Project-Based Learning (PBL).

For those interested in attending, early bird registration is now open. Montana educators can register for free through the provided link. The event will be held at the University of Montana Phyllis J. Washington College of Education.

We're incredibly proud of Terra's achievement and BFCC's ongoing commitment to culturally relevant education. Congratulations, Terra!

## HONORING MARVIN WEATHERWAX SR.'S LEGACY AT BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BFCC celebrated the retirement of Marvin Weatherwax Sr., a dedicated faculty member who has served our institution and community for over 20 years. Throughout his time at BFCC, Marvin has been a pillar of knowledge, leadership, and cultural preservation, leaving an indelible mark on our students and the Piikani Studies program.

To honor his remarkable contributions, the Piikani Studies hallway has been officially named "Piitaisapo'p" (Eagleplume)—a tribute to his lasting impact on education and the Blackfeet community.

Surrounded by family, friends, and former colleagues, today's celebration was a heartfelt reflection of Marvin's dedication and the many lives he has influenced. His passion for teaching and cultural preservation has helped shape the future of countless students, ensuring that Blackfeet traditions and knowledge continue to thrive for generations to come.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Marvin Weatherwax Sr. for his years of service and wish him a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement. His legacy will forever remain a part of BFCC. More photos of the event can be found at <https://bfcc.edu/post/Marvin-Weatherwax-Sr-Retires-after-20-Years-with-BFCC>



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## BFCC STUDENTS SHINE AT AIHEC 2025 IN RAPID CITY

Blackfeet Community College students recently returned from an exciting and successful trip to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) in Rapid City, SD where they competed against tribal colleges from across the nation. Our students showcased their talents in a variety of competitions, including Archery, Film, One Act Play, Speech, Art, Poetry, Handgame, Science Posters, Business Bowl, and Knowledge Bowl.

We are incredibly proud of our students who earned top honors:

- Brandi Harwood was awarded the prestigious AIHEC Coca-Cola Scholarship.
- Melisa Trombley was named BFCC Student of the Year and also won the People's Choice Award for her film.
- Our One Act Play team took 2nd place, with a hilarious performance of Napi and the Rock, featuring Lisa Aimsback, Belinda Bullshoe, and Melisa Trombley, with Kane Gilham running lights under the guidance of coach Paula Bremner.

Beyond the competitions, students had the opportunity to visit the iconic Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse monuments, adding a cultural and historical experience to their trip.

AIHEC is an incredible opportunity for students to challenge themselves, grow their skills, and connect with peers from other tribal colleges. Any full-time students interested in competing next year are encouraged to contact Elaine Littleplume at [elaine.lp@bfcc.edu](mailto:elaine.lp@bfcc.edu) to learn how to get involved.

Photos from the trip, the One Act Play performance, and Melisa Trombley's award-winning short documentary can be found at [bfcc.edu/post/AIHEC-2025](http://bfcc.edu/post/AIHEC-2025).

We are so proud of our students for representing BFCC with excellence—congratulations to all who participated!



## MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY RECEIVES 2025 EXCELLENT LIBRARY SERVICES AWARD

Blackfeet Community College's Medicine Spring Library has been honored with the 2025 Excellent Library Services Award (ELSA) by the Montana State Library! This prestigious recognition celebrates libraries that excel in professional development, collaboration, programming, and community engagement—all qualities that define the outstanding work of our library team.

🎉 A huge congratulations to Aaron LaFromboise, Director of Library Services, and her incredible team—Joseph D. Rutherford and Kim Oldchief!

🎉 Their dedication to fostering a love of learning, research, and academic excellence has made Medicine Spring Library an invaluable resource for students, faculty, and the community.

While this is the final year of the ELSA in its current form, Medicine Spring Library remains committed to delivering top-tier library services. "We are honored to receive this award," said Aaron LaFromboise. "Regardless of recognition, we will always strive to provide the best possible support for our community."

The Montana State Library recognized 30 libraries across the state at the Montana Library Association's Awards Dinner on March 28, 2025. State Librarian Jennie Stapp praised the recipients for their dedication to meeting their patrons' needs with excellence.

Let's give a big round of applause to Aaron, Joseph, and Kim for their hard work and passion! 🎉👏

For more information about the Montana State Library, visit [msl.mt.gov](http://msl.mt.gov).

Be sure to keep an eye out for the exciting activities and events happening at Medicine Spring Library, including arts and crafts, workshops, astronomy nights, reading activities, art shows, and much more! 🌟 To stay updated on all their fantastic programs and services, be sure to follow them on Facebook @Medicine Spring Library, or visit our website [www.bfcc.edu](http://www.bfcc.edu) for our latest updates!

## MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY'S STAR GAZING EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS!

On March 18th, the Medicine Spring Library hosted its third star gazing event in partnership with the Glacier National Park Astronomy Program, and it was a fantastic night under the stars! 🌟

A total of 28 community members gathered to experience the wonders of the night sky through the powerful Apertura AD12 Dobsonian 12" Telescope. With the help of this incredible 10-inch reflector telescope, attendees had the rare opportunity to view celestial bodies such as Mars, Jupiter, and two of Jupiter's moons, including Europa. The evening also featured stunning sights like the Great Globular Cluster in Hercules and the Pleiades star cluster—all visible to the naked eye thanks to the expert guidance of the Glacier National Park Astronomy team.

A big thank you goes out to Dori, Sarah, and Eli from Glacier National Park for being such amazing partners and for bringing the beauty of the park's astronomy programs into our community. We are so grateful for their support and the opportunity to share these awe-inspiring experiences with the public.

This event was a huge success, and we're already looking forward to the next star gazing session later this spring! Keep an eye on the Medicine Spring Library Facebook page for updates on future events and opportunities to look to the stars!

