

BFCC MAGPIE



AUGUST 2025

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Okii BFCC Relations,

I want to extend a warm welcome back as we begin the Fall 2025 semester at Blackfeet Community College. Each new academic year is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to learning, growth, and community. Whether you are a new student just beginning your educational journey or a returning student continuing toward your goals, know that you are an important part of the BFCC family.

This year holds special promise. Our faculty and staff have worked hard over the summer to prepare engaging classes, resources, and support systems to help every student succeed. As a college, we continue to build on our foundation of resilience, culture, and education while embracing new opportunities that strengthen both our campus and our community.

I encourage you to take full advantage of the resources available—connect with your instructors, meet with advisors, explore student clubs, and engage in the many events that bring us together. College is not only about earning a degree; it's about building relationships, discovering your strengths, and preparing yourself to serve and lead. As we step into this new semester, let's do so with focus, determination, and pride in who we are as Piikani people and as members of the BFCC family. I look forward to seeing the incredible things you will accomplish this year.

On behalf of the entire administration, faculty, and staff—welcome back, and let's make Fall 2025 a semester to remember.

In Respect and Encouragement,

Dr. Brad Hall

President, Blackfeet Community College

SPRING 2025 REGISTRATION IS HERE!

We are ready for a new semester, and we're excited to welcome both new and returning students for Fall 2025! Whether you're starting your first class, transferring from another school, or returning to continue your degree, our team is here to make the process smooth and stress-free.

Where to Start

All students should begin in the Student Success Center located in the Beaver Painted Lodge Building. Our friendly staff will walk you through each step of the process—from orientation and academic advising to financial aid and final registration.

For New & Transfer Students

Orientation is your first stop! August 19-21 (9:00 AM - 3:00 PM each day) will get you ready for success. Orientation will help you get familiar with campus resources, meet instructors and advisors, and learn how to make the most of your time at BFCC.

For Returning Students

Start with the IT Department to update your student login and email so you're ready to access class schedules, course materials, and important announcements.

Key Dates to Remember

- Orientation: August 19-21, 2025
- Registration: August 25-29, 2025
- First Day of Classes: September 2, 2025

Financial Aid & Scholarships

The Financial Aid Office will be open during registration to help with FAFSA applications, answer scholarship questions, and ensure your tuition and fees are covered. Bring your award letter if you're using financial aid for textbooks.

Textbooks & Supplies

You can order your books online or shop in person at the BFCC Bookstore. Our bookstore team is ready to help you find what you need so you can start the semester prepared.

Pro Tips for a Smooth Registration

- Bring your official transcripts if transferring credits
- Have your immunization records ready
- If applicable, bring your Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB)
- The earlier you register, the better your chances of getting the classes you want

We can't wait to see the campus come alive again with students ready to learn, grow, and achieve their goals. Let's make Fall 2025 your best semester yet. Okii!

IMPORTANT DATES

- **AUGUST 19-21:**
 - NEW STUDENT ASSESSMENTS - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM OR 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM - BPL LEARNING CENTER
 - NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION - 9AM - 3PM - STUDENT COMMONS
 - STUDENT SENATE NOMINATIONS - APPLY WITH ELAINE LITTLEPLUME
- **AUGUST 22:** ART SHOW SUBMISSIONS DUE
- **AUGUST 25-29:**
 - FALL REGISTRATION
 - NURSING BOOTCAMP
- **AUGUST 25 - SEPTEMBER 5:** ART SHOW - MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY
- **AUGUST 27:** QUICK DRAW ACTIVITY - 10:00AM - 5:00PM - MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY
- **AUGUST 28:** SPLATTER PAINT ACTIVITY - 4:00PM - 6:00PM - MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY
- **SEPTEMBER 1:** BFCC CLOSED - LABOR DAY
- **SEPTEMBER 2:**
 - FIRST DAY OF CLASSES
 - COLLEGE TOUR PREMIER PARTY - 1:00PM - STUDENT COMMONS
 - ALL CLUB EVENT - 2:00PM - 4:00PM BPL STUDENT COMMONS
 - STUDENT SENATE ELECTIONS - 2:00PM - 4:00PM BPL STUDENT COMMONS

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DISCOVER EXCITING STEM & HEALTH RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES AT BFCC!

Blackfeet Community College students have two fantastic opportunities to advance their education and careers in STEM and health research. Check out these programs and apply today!

1. STARS Scholarship – Supporting Talent with Aligned Resources for STEM Students

The STARS Scholarship supports students pursuing STEM degrees and provides resources to help you succeed. To qualify, students must be enrolled in one of the following programs: Environmental Science, Hydrology/Hydrology Technician, or Pre-Engineering, maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher, and be enrolled full-time.

Application Requirements:

- Personal Statement: Explain why you want to pursue a STEM program, why you are requesting the scholarship, and your career goals.
- Transcripts: Obtain from your advisor.
- Statement of Financial Need: Contact Desiree Schildt
- Completed Application

Application link: <https://www.umat.edu/stars/default.php>

Or scan the QR code below to access the application quickly.

2. NARCH Research Internship – Engage in Health and Wellness Research

BFCC students can gain hands-on experience in health and wellness research through the NARCH internship program. This is a paid internship designed to build your research skills while contributing to important health science projects.

Internship Requirements:

- Be a full-time student with a cumulative 2.0 GPA or higher.
- Complete and submit the application form along with a copy of your latest unofficial transcript.

Application Submission:

- Applications available at:
- Return completed applications to Betty Henderson-Matthews, South Wind Lodge (Math/Science Building), Office 121.
- Questions? Call 406-338-5441 ext. 2800.

Scan the QR code below to access the NARCH application.

Get started today and take the next step toward your STEM or health research career!

SCAN THE CODES WITH
PHONE CAMERA TO ACCESS
THE APPLICATIONS



STARS APPLICATION (LEFT)
NARCH APPLICATION (RIGHT)



ART SHOW: AUGUST 25–SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

Celebrate creativity and talent at the BFCC Art Show, running August 25–September 5, 2025! Artists from the BFCC community are invited to submit their work by August 22 in these categories: Painting, Drawing, Beading, Leatherwork, Photography, Textiles, and 3-D Art.

Prizes: 1st Place – \$100 | 2nd Place – \$75 | 3rd Place – \$50 | People's Choice – \$100

Throughout the show, visitors can participate in People's Choice voting, watch artists compete in the Quick Draw contest, attend an artist lecture, enjoy a special art program (TBD), and celebrate the participants at the Artists Reception.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore incredible artwork, support local talent, and experience the creativity of the BFCC community!

FINANCIAL AID: MAKING COLLEGE POSSIBLE

Paying for college doesn't have to be stressful—BFCC's Financial Aid Office is here to help you every step of the way!

Meet Your Financial Aid Director

We're excited to introduce Desiree Schildt, BFCC's Financial Aid Director. Desiree and the enrollment services department are ready to guide you through the FAFSA, scholarships, and everything in between. Have questions? Call 406-338-5421 ext. 2246 for personalized help.

FAFSA Basics

- Available every year from Oct. 1–June 30 (School Code: 014902)
- Apply early—some grants are first-come, first-served.
- Create an FSA ID at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) (students and parents each need one).

What You'll Need

- ✓ Social Security Numbers (student & parents if dependent)
- ✓ Tax returns, W-2s, untaxed income records
- ✓ Savings/checking account balances & investment info (if applicable)

After You Apply

- Review your FAFSA Submission Summary for accuracy.
- Schools use your FAFSA to build your aid package.
- Complete a new FAFSA every year you attend.

Types of Aid at BFCC

- Grants (Pell, FSEOG – free money you don't repay)
- Scholarships (institutional & external opportunities)
- Work-study (earn while you learn, part-time campus jobs)
- Loans are not offered at BFCC, but may be at other schools—borrow only what you need.

Scholarship Highlights

- Greer STEM Scholarship – For full-time STEM students, 2.5 GPA+
- Fisher Family Scholarship – For full-time students with 2.0 GPA+
- Long Standing Bear Blackfeet Scholarship – For Blackfeet students graduating that year
- External: American Indian College Fund & Native Forward Scholarship

Check BFCC's scholarship page often for deadlines and application details.

Staying Eligible

- Keep a 2.0 GPA or higher
- Complete at least 67% of attempted credits
- Finish your program within 150% of its published length

Cost of Attendance (per year)

- Tuition & Fees: ~\$3,610
- Books & Supplies: ~\$1,300
- Housing & Food: \$6,700–\$9,700 (depending on living situation)
- Transportation: ~\$2,100
- Personal/Misc.: ~\$3,000

Financial aid can significantly reduce your out-of-pocket costs.

Need help?

- Call: 406-338-5421
- Email: fin_aid@bfcc.edu
- Website: www.bfcc.edu/financial-aid

Start early, stay organized, and remember—you're not alone. BFCC Financial Aid is here to make your education affordable and achievable.

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BFCC BOOKSTORE: YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR SUCCESS

The BFCC Bookstore is more than just a place to pick up books—it's your go-to spot for everything you need to thrive this semester. From textbooks and school supplies to Blackfeet Community College gear, snacks, tech accessories, and gifts, we've got you covered.

Location & Hours

You'll find us in the Beaver Painted Lodge by the Student Commons. Open Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM (summer hours may vary).

Ordering Textbooks Made Easy

Students can order required course materials online at bncvirtual.com/blackfeet. After registering for classes:

1. Visit the website
2. Select "Order Textbooks"
3. Choose your term & courses

Prefer in-person shopping or having trouble online? We also stock physical textbooks in-store and are happy to help you get what you need without waiting for shipping.

Using Financial Aid & Scholarships at the Bookstore

Yes—you can use financial aid or scholarships to purchase books and supplies!

- Bring your Award Letter from the Finance Office to receive a Voucher ID.
- We'll help create and activate your account so you can order online.
- Planning to buy in-store? Bring your Award Letter, and we'll set up your account and help you get your materials.

Supplies for Every Class

From notebooks, folders, and highlighters to art materials, calculators, and backpacks, we carry all the essentials. Can't find what you need? Let us know—we'll try to order it for you. Bring your course schedule, and our staff will help you find everything required for your classes.

The Bookstore also carries:

- BFCC gear – hoodies, hats, mugs, water bottles, and more
- Snacks & drinks – perfect for a quick boost between classes
- Tech accessories – chargers, cables, and other essentials
- Gift items – a great option for friends, family, or yourself

Sales & Specials

Watch for back-to-school, midterm, and holiday sales throughout the year. Stay connected on social media (BFCC Bookstore) and check your student email for announcements and deals.

Need Help?

Call us at 406-338-5441 ext. 2217 for questions or assistance. Our staff is ready to help you start the semester prepared, supported, and ready to succeed!

STAY IN THE KNOW

Keep up with all the latest news, events, internships, and scholarships at BFCC! Visit our BFCC Magpie page: bfcc.edu/BFCC-Magpie.

Add our events calendar by scanning the QR code to the right with your cell phone to your Google Calendar to never miss an event!



Connect with us on social media: Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and Snapchat – all links in one place here: linktr.ee/blackfeetcommunitycollege.

BUILD SKILLS, BUILD YOUR FUTURE: BFCC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Workforce Development Division at Blackfeet Community College is committed to providing accessible, high-quality, hands-on education that meets the evolving needs of our community. Designed to prepare students for meaningful employment, the division offers programs that combine practical skills with real-world experience.

Students can choose from One-Year Certificates, Certificates of Completion, and short-term training programs in high-demand fields, including Industry Trades, Commercial Truck Driving, Solar Installation, and other specialized workforce tracks. Programs include apprenticeships and on-the-job training, allowing students to gain hands-on experience while building valuable industry connections. The division also offers the HiSET (High School Equivalency Test) program, helping individuals who did not complete high school earn a credential equivalent to a diploma. HiSET preparation is integrated with workforce training, giving students foundational skills in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. Students can then transition directly into certificate programs, short-term trainings, or apprenticeships offered by the division.

By combining academic preparation with industry-focused skills, the Workforce Development Division ensures students are ready to enter the workforce and pursue lifelong learning opportunities. Flexible programs and responsive training options empower students to grow personally, achieve self-sufficiency, and contribute to the economic development of the Blackfeet Nation and surrounding communities. Whether you're earning your HiSET, training for a skilled trade, or exploring career pathways, the BFCC Workforce Development Division is here to help you build the skills for a successful future. For more information, contact Cheryl Madman, Director, Workforce Development, at 406-338-5441 Ext. 2305 or cmadman@bfcc.edu.

FIND YOUR PLACE: LEARN ABOUT BFCC CLUBS AT THE ALL-CLUBS EVENT!

Looking to get involved on campus? Come to the All-Clubs event on September 2nd in the Beaver Painted Lodge Student Commons! This is your chance to learn about student clubs, meet current members, and find a group that fits your interests.

Recognized clubs at BFCC include:

- **Piikani Club** – Celebrate cultural pride, traditions, and community service.
- **AIHEC** – Join a national alliance of TCUs and take part in cultural, academic, and leadership competitions.
- **AIBL** – Build your leadership and entrepreneurship skills through activities and conferences.
- **AISES** – Connect with opportunities in STEM, including scholarships and internships.
- **Other Clubs** – **Archaeology, Art, Student Research Council, Healthy Colleges Montana, Media Club, and Akitamahkaiksi Club.**

It doesn't matter whether you're interested in culture, leadership, science, or the arts, there's a place for you!

For questions about clubs, contact Elaine Littleplume at 406-338-5441 ext. 2262 or elaine.lp@bfcc.edu.

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BFCC CAREER CENTER: GUIDING YOUR JOURNEY

The Career Center at Blackfeet Community College is here to support students, alumni, and community members in developing the skills and knowledge needed for success in the workforce or further education. Offering support in exploring career options, preparing for a job, or seeking professional development, the Career Center offers valuable programs and services to help you reach your goals.

Our Goals:

- **Career Readiness:** We help students gain the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to thrive in their chosen careers. Workshops focus on job search strategies and tools to secure meaningful employment, supporting Core Theme #3 of the College's Mission.
- **Career Decision-Making:** Using the Montana Career Information System (MCIS), students can explore careers that align with their values, interests, and abilities. Our staff are available to guide students through self-assessments and career planning.
- **Career Exploration:** Learn about various occupations and connect with BFCC alumni for insights into real-world experiences. The Career Center also hosts the Annual Job and Career Fair, bringing employers directly to students and community members.
- **Resume & Cover Letter Assistance:** We provide one-on-one support and workshops to help students create strong resumes and cover letters. Assistance is available for jobs, internships, apprenticeships, and scholarships.
- **Job Interview Preparation:** Practice and gain confidence with mock interviews, learn strategies for success, and get guidance on presenting yourself professionally for any job opportunity.
- **Job Placement:** Stay up to date with job listings, access internet and printing resources, and attend Employee/Employer Relations workshops to prepare for a successful career.

Visit Us:

Our office is located in the Beaver Painted Lodge Student Commons Area. For more information, stop by the Career Center or reach out to:

- Rachel Wells-Hoyt: ext. 2215 | rachel.wh@bfcc.edu
- Gerald Last Star: ext. 2242 | gerald.l@bfcc.edu

The BFCC Career Center is your first step toward a successful career or higher education journey—come see how we can help you thrive!

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD – JOIN STUDENT SENATE!

Do you want to make a real impact at BFCC? Joining the Student Senate gives you the opportunity to shape student activities, campus events, and policies while representing your peers. As a senator, you'll help plan events, contribute ideas, and make sure student voices are heard in important college decisions. Being part of Student Senate is not just about participation—it's about developing leadership, collaboration, and decision-making skills. Serving as a senator also looks great on college applications, job resumes, and scholarship applications, highlighting your involvement, initiative, and commitment to your community. If you're ready to get involved and help shape the BFCC experience, fill out an application with Elaine Littleplume: ext. 2262 | elaine.l@bfcc.edu. Step up, share your ideas, and make a difference on campus!

SUPPORTING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AT BFCC

Taking care of your mental and emotional well-being is a vital part of being a successful student at Blackfeet Community College. Balancing school, work, family, and day-to-day life can sometimes feel overwhelming. Feelings of stress, sadness, or anxiety can impact your academic progress and overall success.

Toni RunningFisher, Mental Health Support Specialist, is here to help. Located in the Beaver Painted Lodge Student Success Center, Toni provides support through in-person meetings, phone, Zoom, or email. Students can receive one-on-one consultations, guidance, and referrals for additional care to address a wide range of mental and emotional health needs.

Throughout the academic year, the department also offers programs and activities that promote holistic wellness, helping students thrive both personally and academically.

Contact Information:

- Toni RunningFisher, Mental Health Support Specialist: ext. 2211 | toni.rf@bfcc.edu

Taking the step to prioritize your mental health is a key part of your success at BFCC—help is available whenever you need it.

AAHSIIS KOOKAN (KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS LODGE)

The Aahsiiks Kookan (Knowledge Carriers Lodge), located in the Beaver Painted Lodge at BFCC, provides a welcoming and supportive space for elders and community knowledge carriers on the Blackfeet Nation. The Lodge connects elders with community-based services and resources while offering opportunities to engage with the College's programs and services. It is a place where wisdom, experience, and culture are shared across generations.

The Lodge is open to students, faculty, staff, and community members—everyone is encouraged to visit, mingle, and learn from the knowledge carriers. It serves as a hub for cultural exchange, informal learning, mentorship, and community support, fostering meaningful connections between elders and the BFCC community.

Programs & Activities:

- **Monthly Elder Lunches** – Enjoy fellowship, conversation, and shared stories, offered in partnership with the Blackfeet Domestic Violence Program and the Eagle Shields Program. Stay tuned for the schedule!
- **Soup Tuesdays** – Gather for a warm meal, storytelling, and community building in an inviting environment.
- **Craft Wednesdays** – Engage in hands-on cultural activities, crafts, and learning experiences that celebrate Blackfeet traditions.

The Knowledge Carriers Lodge is an extension of BFCC's student support services, promoting intergenerational learning, cultural engagement, and community connection. Whether you're an elder wanting to share your knowledge, or a student, faculty, staff member, or community member looking to learn and connect, the Lodge is a welcoming space for all.

For More Information:

- Laura Gervais, Director: ext. 2235 | laura.g@bfcc.edu
- Kim Deroche, Assistant: 23kimberly.j@bfcc.edu

Come visit the Aahsiiks Kookan and experience a space where knowledge, culture, and community come together!

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TO PLACE AN ARTICLE IN THE BFCC MAGPIE

PLEASE CONTACT PAULA BREMNER

PBREMNER@BFCC.EDU

BUILDING LEADERS IN EDUCATION: BFCC EDUCATION DIVISION UPDATES

The Education Division at BFCC has had an inspiring and productive summer, filled with impactful programs, achievements, and opportunities for students.

Honoring Excellence in Teaching

On June 3, our 2+2 student teachers proudly honored Mrs. Toni Tatsey with a Pendleton Blanket in recognition of her outstanding leadership and mentorship. From 2017 to 2025, BFCC and UM Western placed 23 student teachers at Bull Shoe Elementary, with 16 still teaching there today—a testament to the strength of community-rooted teacher preparation. We congratulate Mrs. Tatsey on her retirement and thank her for her lasting impact on education and the Blackfeet community.

Land-Based Learning & Cultural Engagement

The division offered a 10-day Blackfeet Land-Based Learning Course for Head Start educators, funded by the Mel Foundation and in partnership with Stone Child College. Participants visited sites like Writing-on-Stone and the 2+2 PBTP Professional Development Training in Helena (July 27-30, 2025), featuring sessions on Blackfeet Language & History, Indian Education for All (IEFA), land-based learning, and hands-on history experiences.

Celebrations & Professional Development

We send warm wishes to Mrs. Terra Bruhn, who welcomed her first granddaughter on June 15, and bid farewell to Charlee, who has accepted a new position at Browning High School. Upcoming professional development opportunities include CPR/First Aid workshops and the 2+2 PBTP Professional Development Training in Helena (July 27-30, 2025), featuring sessions on Blackfeet Language & History, Indian Education for All (IEFA), land-based learning, and hands-on history experiences.

Grants & Partnerships

The Education Division continues to strengthen Native communities through initiatives such as the Early Childhood Partnership Grant, the YES Project, the Secondary Education Initiative (MACP Grant with MSU-Bozeman), and the Grow Your Own (GYO) Educator Grant, expanding pathways for students to become future educators.

Leadership Spotlight

Under the guidance of Dee Hoyt, Division Chair, the Education Division empowers students to pursue degrees while staying connected to their culture and community. Dee's vision has built strong teacher pathways, developed local leadership, and inspired a new generation of educators.

Get Involved

If you're passionate about education, the BFCC Education Division offers opportunities for hands-on learning, professional growth, and cultural engagement. Take part in programs that prepare you for a career in education while making a positive impact in the Blackfeet community.

Contact Information:

- Dee Hoyt, Division Chair: 406.338.5441 ext. 2910 | dlynnhoyt@bfcc.edu
- Terra Bruhn: 406.338.5441 ext. 2912 | terra.b@bfcc.edu

Explore how the Education Division can help you grow as a leader, educator, and community advocate!

PREMIER PARTY - CELEBRATE OUR MOMENT ON AMAZON PRIME!

We are thrilled to host a Premier Party for the debut of Amazon Prime's The College Tour episode featuring BFCC! This special episode showcases 10 of our very own students, highlighting their achievements, experiences, and the vibrant culture of our campus.

The students featured in this episode are:

- Kim Deroche
- Maddy Burns
- Darrell Hall
- Melisa Trombley
- Dani Hamann
- Domaneek Crossguns Hall
- Jeremy Wells
- Lisa Aimsback
- Taos Yellowowl
- Kane Gilham

Join us on September 2nd at 1:00 PM in the Beaver Painted Lodge Student Commons for a fun-filled Premier Party. Be among the first to watch BFCC's episode and celebrate the amazing stories of our students!

The College Tour airs on Amazon Prime Video, as well as Roku, Apple TV, and Samsung TV Plus, making it easy for everyone to watch at home after the premiere. This is a unique chance to see BFCC highlighted on multiple global platforms and to honor the voices and talents of our students.

Don't miss this exciting event! Come with friends, faculty, and fellow students for a celebratory viewing party, share in the excitement, and be part of BFCC's moment in the spotlight!

BFCC EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Nursing Instructor
 - \$45000.00 - \$48000.00 / Year
 - 12 months, 26 pay periods
- Piikani Studies Language Instructor
 - 20 pay periods
- Student Account Specialist
 - \$37440.00 - \$41600.00 / Year
 - 12 months, 26 pay periods



For more information on employment opportunities visit our website below or scan the qr code with your phone camera above!

Contact Human Resources:

Daisy gilham

Christie Farmer

- 406.338.5441 ext. 2204
- d.gilham@bfcc.edu
- 406.338.5441 ext. 2204
- christie.f@bfcc.edu

<https://secure3.saashr.com/ta/b5441.careers?careerssearch>

STUDENT PREP CHECKLIST

Before the semester begins:

- Register for courses and confirm your schedule
- Gather textbooks and supplies
- Set up your student email and Canvas accounts
- Plan a weekly study schedule
- Organize a quiet study space
- Reach out to advisors or tutors if you need guidance

Once you've checked these off, you're all set for a successful year—good luck and make it a great semester!