

BFCC MAGPIE



JUNE/JULY 2025

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ANDREA RED CROW MAKES HER MARK IN PEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGY

The Blackfeet Community College Math & Science Department proudly celebrates Andrea (Eagle Child) Red Crow for her remarkable accomplishment as a published author. Andrea co-authored a manuscript titled "Imaging Assessment of Calcinosis in Juvenile Dermatomyositis: A Narrative Review," which appears in the respected journal Pediatric Rheumatology.

This article explores a medical condition that holds personal meaning for Andrea, offering a comprehensive review of imaging methods used to assess calcinosis in children affected by juvenile dermatomyositis. Her contribution reflects both academic excellence and heartfelt dedication.

As a student research intern, Andrea has contributed to multiple projects at BFCC, consistently demonstrating curiosity, compassion, and commitment to health equity in Native communities. Her success marks a proud milestone for our campus community. You can read Andrea's published work by visiting our website www.bfcc.edu/narch or by scanning the QR code provided. Congratulations, Andrea! Your hard work inspires us all—and proves that it's never too late to learn, grow, and make a lasting impact.



SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE
FOR MANUSCRIPT

IMPORTANT DATES!

- **JUNE 6:** FLOOD MEMORIAL - BFCC CLOSED
- **JUNE 19:** JUNETEENTH - BFCC CLOSED
- **JUNE 25:** SUMMER MARKET - INFO TBA MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY
- **JUNE 27:** LAST DAY OF CLASS
- **JUNE 30- JULY 14:** SUMMER BREAK- BFCC CLOSED
- **JULY 23:** SUMMER MARKET - INFO TBA MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY
- **JULY 28 - AUG 11:** HEART BUTTE INDIAN DAYS - BFCC CLOSED
- **AUGUST 18-20:** TRADITIONAL CAMP - INFO TBA MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY
- **AUG 25-SEPT 5:** ANNUAL ART SHOW - MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- **TUESDAYS (JUNE 10 - AUG 12):** SUMMER READING ACTIVITIES - MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY
- **FRIDAYS:** CRAFT FRIDAYS - MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY - ALL DAY

BLACKFEET WORDS OF THE MONTH - MAY

- TSA NIITA'PII - HOW ARE YOU
- MAATSOWAPIKSISTSIKO - IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY
- KAI-OON-STA-KIN-STAAAN - JESUS OR NAIL SCARRED HANDS
- OOHKAAN-NAAPSI - CELEBRATE

APPLY TODAY TO THE ENERGY INNOVATOR FELLOWSHIP!

Applications are now open for the Energy Innovator Fellowship. Recent graduates and early-career energy professionals will spend up to two years in this paid fellowship, helping critical energy organizations execute projects that improve energy infrastructure and make the U.S. power system more reliable, affordable, and resilient.

Candidates should have a demonstrated interest in energy solutions. Applications are due on June 6 at 10AM MST. Learn more and apply today!



DEANA MCNABB RETIRES AFTER 37+ YEARS OF SERVICE TO BFCC

Blackfeet Community College honors the retirement of Deana McNabb, whose career has spanned more than 37 years of dedicated service. Deana began her full-time journey with BCC in December 1983 as a Counselor/Advising Specialist in Student Services, after already teaching GED classes in the evenings.

Over the years, she wore many hats—supporting admissions, financial aid, counseling, and pioneering the college's transition into computer-based systems. Deana embraced Macintosh computers early on, developed key office documents, taught computer skills to staff, and supported technology growth across campus.

In 1994, she became Registrar/Admissions Officer and helped implement various student information systems, ensuring smooth operations and accurate reporting. Even after retiring in 2016, Deana returned in 2021 as the college's Institutional Researcher, where she spent four more years compiling essential data and reports.

Deana's impact on BCC is immeasurable. Her leadership, adaptability, and deep institutional knowledge have shaped the college's foundation and growth. We thank her for her service and wish her the very best in retirement.



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HEALTH & WELLNESS TAKE CENTER STAGE AT BFCC HEALTH DAY 2025

Blackfeet Community College recently hosted its annual Health Day, ISK-SKOM-MITS-KOI-STOM—a celebration and reminder to prioritize wellness, self-care, and community connection.

This year's event was a vibrant success, with several hundred attendees taking part in a full day of health-focused activities. More than 80 presenters and organizations generously shared their time, services, and expertise, offering everything from health screenings and wellness resources to cultural practices that support healing and balance.

The day also featured the BFCC Open House, giving participants a chance to explore academic programs and sign up for upcoming classes—blending the journey toward better health with opportunities for personal and educational growth.

The registration table welcomed 754 people throughout the day, and activity booths recorded over 900 individual visits—showing strong participation from students, families, and community members.

Visitors enjoyed interactive booths, traditional foods, raffles, and live demonstrations that added energy and cultural richness to the event. The presence of elders, youth, and wellness professionals made it a truly intergenerational gathering centered on healing and support. Conversations sparked throughout the day have already led to follow-up workshops and new partnerships in motion.

Health Day is made possible through the support and sponsorship of the Blackfeet Culture & Hope Program, which also plays a key role in planning and organizing the event. Their ongoing partnership with BFCC brings together a network of local service providers and advocates committed to uplifting the community through wellness and cultural resilience.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who helped make Health Day 2025 a meaningful day of connection, learning, and renewal.

BFCC STUDENT WINS NATIONAL FILM AWARD

Blackfeet Community College student Melisa Trombley has earned national recognition by winning the TCJ Student film contest with her short film *Reconnecting with Our Ways*. The film was praised for its emotional depth and honest portrayal of Indigenous cultural revitalization.

Melisa's work highlights the journey of reconnecting with traditional practices, language, and identity. Her film stood out among entries from tribal colleges across the country, earning top honors for its storytelling and visual impact.

A dedicated student and emerging filmmaker, Melisa is passionate about using film to preserve Native culture and inspire others. Her winning entry reflects a broader movement among Indigenous youth to reclaim and celebrate their heritage.

The award was announced on May 1, 2025, following the AIHEC Student Conference. Melisa's film will be featured in the upcoming TCJ Student publication, included in the Fall 2025 issue of Tribal College Journal.

Her achievement brings well-deserved attention to both her talent and the creative community at Blackfeet Community College.



SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA
TO WATCH THE FILM!



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KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE: GAMES NOW ACCESSIBLE AT BFCC LIBRARY

Blackfeet Community College's Medicine Spring Library recently received a culturally significant donation from Deanna Leader—an extensive collection of traditional Native games, complete with materials and instructional guides. The donation reflects a deep commitment to preserving Indigenous knowledge and sharing it with future generations.

To ensure the games would be accessible to students, educators, and the community, the collection was accepted by Aaron LaFromboise, Library Director at Medicine Spring Library. A gifting took place, where the games and a hand drum were presented to the library. In addition, several elders were honored with gifts in appreciation for their guidance and cultural contributions.

The traditional games are now available at the Medicine Spring Library for educational and community use. Anyone interested in borrowing the games for classes, youth programming, or cultural events is welcome to do so.

For more information or to access the games, contact Aaron LaFromboise at (406) 338-5441 ext. 2700 or email alafromboise@bfcc.edu.



UNCOVER ANCIENT STORIES: ANTHROPOLOGY CLUB LAUNCHES AT BFCC

A new club is making its mark at Blackfeet Community College! Founded by student J'Vohn Lopez, the Anthropology Club is for anyone curious about ancient cultures, civilizations, and histories—both Native and global.

Mission:

To spark curiosity and wonder through hands-on learning, exploration, and a deeper understanding of the world's ancient peoples.

Who Can Join?

All BFCC students and staff are welcome!

Planned Activities:

Field trips to historical sites across the Blackfeet Reservation, throughout Montana, and into Alberta, Canada—with future plans to visit ancient civilization sites beyond.

Meeting Schedule:

Every other Thursday

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 5th

For more information, contact J'Vohn Lopez at 23jvohn.l@bfcc.edu.

Come join the adventure into the past!



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YOUTH SCIENCE DAY INSPIRES YOUNG MINDS ACROSS THE BLACKFEET NATION

Blackfeet Community College hosted not one, but two Youth Science Day events this year—welcoming students from Heart Butte School and Browning Middle School for immersive, hands-on experiences in STEM learning. Organized by the NARCH Program in collaboration with BFCC's Math and Science Division, the events aimed to spark curiosity and show students how exciting and accessible science can be.

Each event featured a range of interactive activities designed to introduce students to different areas of science and technology. From owl pellet dissection and DNA sampling to drone flying, slime making, kite building, and cracking open rocks to uncover hidden geodes, students explored science through play, discovery, and experimentation.

The goal of Youth Science Day is to engage students early and help them see science as something both fun and meaningful. By giving them the chance to work alongside BFCC faculty and try new things, the event encourages future interest in STEM education and careers.

Students were enthusiastic, engaged, and eager to learn—many saying it was one of the most fun school days they'd ever had. Events like these show the power of hands-on learning and the value of connecting young learners to higher education in a supportive environment.

A big thanks to everyone in the NARCH Program and Math and Science Division for organizing these impactful days of learning and exploration.



NITSITSIPOOKAATOOPINAAN "WE ARE GRADUATING" SUMMER 2025 EQUITY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

July 7-11 | Ashes Chief Building | \$150 Stipend
Blackfeet Community College invites 3 BFCC students and 5 graduating high school seniors (Class of 2025) to join a week-long, hands-on summer experience focused on:

- Street Art – Express your creativity in public spaces
- Rock Band – Collaborate and perform through music
- Robotics – Build, design, and explore technology

Participants will receive a \$150 stipend and enjoy a fun, engaging week of experiential learning alongside mentors and peers. Spots are limited – sign up today!

Contact:

- Gordon Bennett – gordon.b@bfcc.edu
- Slater Henkel – slater.h@bfcc.edu



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BFCC 2025 COMMENCEMENT: CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT, LEADERSHIP, AND CULTURE

Blackfeet Community College proudly celebrated its 2025 Commencement Ceremony with a heartfelt gathering of graduates, families, faculty, and community members. The event was held on campus and honored the incredible achievements of this year's graduating class.

Dr. Mike Bruised Head delivered the inspiring Keynote Address to the Graduates, encouraging them to carry forward their knowledge with pride and cultural strength. The ceremony also recognized Co-Valedictorians Cassandra Kennedy and Tayleigh Running Fisher, who both exemplified academic excellence and leadership throughout their time at BFCC.

One of the most distinguished honors of the day, the Chief Earl Old Person Leadership Award, was presented to Shannon Salois. This prestigious award celebrates individuals who embody character, integrity, visionary leadership, cultural revitalization, and growth within the college. Shannon was honored for her dedication to education, mentorship, and institutional advancement in a way that reflects the spirit and values of the late Chief Earl Old Person. The William O. Goggins Award was presented to Holli Henkel, recognizing her exceptional talent in writing and storytelling. Sponsored by the Goggins family in memory of journalist William "Bill" Goggins, this \$500 award highlights excellence in creative and academic writing. Holli's gift for research and her powerful storytelling voice made her a standout recipient.

Congratulations to all 2025 graduates—we celebrate your achievements and look forward to the many ways you will continue to inspire and lead.

More photos from the celebration can be found at:
<https://bfcc.edu/post/BFCC-Graduation-2025>

CONGRATS TO THE 2025 BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATES

Samuel Aimsback
 Jonnell Armstong
 Jonnell Armstong
 Kaeliyah BearMedicine
 Christina Begay
 Danielle Boggs
 Montana Bremner
 Chance Bremner
 Laurel BullCalf
 Laurel BullCalf
 Belinda BullShoe
 Joanne Cadotte
 Joanne Cadotte
 Aleksandra Casap
 Alicia Cassidy
 Ramona Croff
 Whitney Croff
 Ramona Croff
 Patsy Crossguns
 Patsy Crossguns
 Domaneek Crossguns
 Patsy Crossguns
 Kellie DayRider
 Joleen DeRoche
 Marlene Doney
 Georgina Efigenio
 Tayen England
 Holli Galbreath-Henkel
 Riawna Gallineaux
 Cheyenne Gilham
 Kane Gilham
 Kane Gilham
 Kane Gilham
 Brandi Harwood
 Myron HeavyRunner

Ashley HeavyRunner
 Ryan Hoyt
 Lauryn Johnson
 Joyce Kemmer
 Kassandra Kennerly
 Chelbey Lennemann
 Angel Loring
 Duston Louis
 Naomi Mendibles
 Justina Monroe
 Xavier OldChief
 Lindsey OldPerson
 Misty Pace
 Chelsee Pree
 Yasmin RedHorn
 Jocelyn Redhouse
 George RideAtTheDoor
 Sandi RunningCrane
 Tyler RunningCrane
 Tayleigh RunningFisher
 Morgan Sellars
 Anna Sibbersen
 Mialyn Spoon Hunter
 Adam SpottedEagle
 Candace StillSmoking
 Lyman TailFeathers
 Jodi TalksAbout
 Jaysen TallWhiteman
 Melisa Trombley
 Reina Tyndall
 Jacelyn Vaile
 Jacelyn Vaile
 Jhett Valandra
 Jazelyn Wells
 Francine Wildgun



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AFFIRMING OUR HISTORY: NATIVE CURRICULUM IS A SOVEREIGN RIGHT

At Blackfeet Community College, teaching Blackfeet history, language, and culture isn't just an academic choice—it's a reflection of our sovereignty and a recognition of our responsibility to future generations. Our curriculum is built on the understanding that Native knowledge systems belong at the center of education, especially for Native students.

Recent national dialogue around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies has caused concern at many tribal colleges, where essential programs have been at risk due to misclassification. While we welcome clarification from federal education leaders affirming that Native history is not DEI—but a sovereign right—we know that words must be backed by continued support and resources. President Brad Hall of BFCC expressed cautious optimism following recent statements from the U.S. Department of Education. "It's good to see recognition of our unique status," he said. "But what we need now is action—assured funding, restored protections, and meaningful inclusion of tribal perspectives in policy decisions." BFCC remains committed to providing an education that honors our stories, revitalizes our language, and strengthens our community.

We will continue to advocate for policies that uphold the trust and treaty responsibilities owed to tribal nations—and we encourage our students, staff, and community to stay informed. To read more, scan the QR code or visit: www.bfcc.edu/bfcc-magpie



HISET SUMMER PREP & TESTING AT BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Prepare for your HiSET exam this summer with Blackfeet Community College's prep classes starting June 11th, 2025. Classes are held every Monday and Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:30 PM in Beaver Painted Lodge Room 138. Testing sessions are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 7 PM, and Wednesdays from 4 to 6 PM in Beaver Painted Lodge Room 136. Please remember to register online at www.hiset.org and create your account. You must register at least one business day prior to your test date. Check the website regularly for any updates on testing dates and availability.

For questions about test preparation:
Sadee Littleplume at lsadee@gmail.com or call 406-845-3634

For testing inquiries:
Joseph D. Rutherford at joseph.r@bfcc.edu or 406-338-5441 ext. 2702

For general HiSET information:
Cheryl Madman at cmadman@bfcc.edu or 406-338-5441 ext. 2305



Take the first step toward your GED with BFCC's supportive HiSET prep and testing program!

SCAN TO GO TO
HISET.ORG

BLACK TIE & BLUE JEANS FUNDRAISER RETURNS TO SUPPORT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Blackfeet Community College is proud to announce the return of its beloved Black Tie & Blue Jeans fundraiser—an evening dedicated to raising scholarship funds for students while bringing the community together in celebration.

Set for June 13, 2025, following the International Blackfoot Research Conference, the event will be held at the Civic Center in Cut Bank, MT. Guests can look forward to an unforgettable night featuring live music by the Clint Reimann Band, a prime rib dinner, and both silent and live auctions filled with exciting items and experiences. Whether you show up in your best boots or a bow tie, this is a night you won't want to miss. All proceeds directly support scholarships for students at Blackfeet Community College—investing in education, opportunity, and the future of our community.

Tickets are \$60 per person or \$100 per couple.
Purchase online at givebutter.com/c/hltWRS and pick up your tickets from Ashlynn Marasco, or contact her directly to purchase in person at ashlynn.m@bfcc.edu.

Let's make a difference together—one scholarship at a time. See you there in your black tie, blue jeans, or both!

UPLIFTING BLACKFOOT KNOWLEDGE AT THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Blackfeet Community College is proud to host the upcoming International Blackfoot Research Conference on Friday, June 13, 2025, in Browning, Montana. This annual gathering brings together Blackfoot scholars, students, and community members from across the region and beyond to share ideas, research, and projects that uplift and preserve Blackfoot knowledge systems.

The conference features a wide range of presentations centered on cultural resilience, language revitalization, Indigenous education, Blackfoot-led health initiatives, and community-based research. Topics include early childhood education models rooted in Niitsitapi values, Blackfoot STEM education, traditional equine programs, and innovative approaches to decolonizing academic spaces and research practices. In addition to panel presentations and breakout sessions, attendees will experience documentary screenings, poster exhibits, and opportunities to connect with educators, health professionals, and fellow community advocates. This event highlights the ongoing work of Blackfoot thinkers and creators who are building strong futures grounded in cultural strength and academic excellence.

The conference is free and open to the public. All sessions will be recorded and preserved through the Blackfeet Archives at the Medicine Spring Library and the Blackfeet Community College YouTube channel to ensure ongoing access for future generations.

For more information and the full conference agenda, please visit bfcc.edu/CultureasMedicine.

Blackfeet Community College thanks all who make this event possible, and all those who continue to carry the knowledge forward. Kitaakitomattsin – we'll see you again.

FOR MORE NEWS AND UPDATES VISIT
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