

BFCC MAGPIE




MAY 2025


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HEALTHY BODIES, HEALTHY MINDS: A DAY OF WELLNESS AT BFCC


A Celebration of Strength, Resilience & Well-Being

Join us for Health Day at Blackfeet Community College—a near post-pandemic celebration of everything that makes us strong, resilient, and well. This special event is dedicated to self-care, healing, and renewal through cultural traditions, wellness activities, and community connection.

 Date: May 13th, 2025


 Time: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

 Location: BFCC Campus

 What's Happening:

- Haircuts
- Native organic skin care
- Massage & Reiki
- Yoga & gentle exercise
- Meditation practices
- Art projects and bath bombs
- The healing power of smudge
- Nature-Based Wellness
- Native organic herbs
- Vitamins & minerals
- Gardening
- Herbal teas, roots & berries
- Healthy Food & Nutrition
- Game & fish protein
- Organic juices
- Enjoy a FREE LUNCH on us!
- Outdoor Traditions
- Fishing, hunting, trapping, hiking
- Dental Services
- Smiles Across Montana dental care team on site



-  Special Feature: BFCC Open House
- Tour the campus, explore resources, and connect with community programs.

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Feel Good – Be Alive – Be Glad

Health Day is all about taking a moment to breathe, heal, and celebrate what it means to live well—together. Bring your friends, bring your curiosity, and come ready to enjoy a full day of rejuvenation.

For more information, contact Toni Running Fisher at toni.rf@bfcc.edu

IMPORTANT DATES!

- **APRIL 30- MAY 2:** FALL 2025 PRE-REGISTRATION
- **MAY 1:** FREE MASSAGES - 11:30AM-4:30PM - STUDENT COMMONS
- **MAY 2 - MAY 3:** DRUM MAKING WORKSHOP 8AM-4PM
- **MAY 13:**
 - HEALTH DAY - 11AM-4PM - BFCC CAMPUS
 - BFCC OPEN HOUSE - 11AM-4PM - BPL COMMONS
- **MAY 20- MAY 23:** SUMMER REGISTRATION
- **MAY 21:** ELDERS LUNCH - 11:30AM-2PM - LOCATION: EAGLE SHIELDS
- **MAY 27:** MEMORIAL DAY (BFCC IS CLOSED)
- **MAY 28:** FIRST DAY OF CLASS

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- **MONDAYS:** GRIEF TALKING CIRCLE - CEREMONY ROOM - 12:30PM
- **TUESDAYS (BIWEEKLY):** SOUP TUESDAY - KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS ROOM - MAY 6TH & 20TH
- **WEDNESDAYS:** CRAFT WEDNESDAYS - KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS ROOM - 2:00PM - 4:00PM
- **FRIDAYS:** CRAFT FRIDAYS - MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY - ALL DAY

APRIL BLACKFEET WORDS OF THE MONTH

- ITCH - ISTTIPII
- LAUGH - IYMMIT
- I AM GRATEFUL - NITSINIIYITAKI
- I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN - KITAAKITOMATTSIS



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: THE COLLEGE TOUR FILMS AT BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE!

The final week of April brought an incredible wave of excitement to Blackfeet Community College as we welcomed the production crew of The College Tour, a nationally recognized series featured on Amazon Prime Video. This series brings college campuses to life through the stories of their students—and BFCC is proud to be featured in an upcoming episode.

On Friday, April 25, we had the distinct honor of welcoming Alex Boylan, host of The College Tour and winner of Season 2 of The Amazing Race, to our All Campus Meeting. Joined by the production crew, Alex shared inspiring reflections about the filming process and expressed his admiration for the stories and spirit of our college. His visit energized the room and affirmed the significance of this moment for our institution. What makes this episode especially meaningful is that it highlights ten of our very own students, each sharing how Blackfeet Community College has shaped their personal and academic journeys.

Jeremy Wells, Lisa Aimsback, Melisa Trombley, Kim Deroche, Domaneek Crossguns, Kane Gilham, Taos Yellowowl, Darrell Hall, Dani Hamman, and Madison Burns represent a wide array of degree programs—from nursing and business to arts, culture, and science—and speak to the powerful support systems that have helped them succeed. Through their stories, viewers will learn about the mentorship, student services, cultural grounding, and academic opportunities that make BFCC a place where students thrive both personally and professionally.

The presence of a professional film crew, complete with lights, cameras, and behind-the-scenes action, turned our campus into a vibrant hub of creativity and collaboration. Faculty, staff, and students rallied in support, reflecting the deep sense of unity and pride that defines Blackfeet Community College.

Once completed, the episode will be available to stream on Amazon Prime Video, offering audiences across the country a window into the transformative power of education rooted in culture and community. Stay tuned for updates on the release date—we can't wait to share our story with the world!



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BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL EMPLOYER WORKFORCE SUMMIT

On April 3, 2025, Blackfeet Community College proudly hosted its first annual Employer Workforce Summit at the Stickgame Arbor in Browning, Montana. The event brought together tribal leadership, educators, employers, and workforce professionals to collaborate on building stronger pathways between education and employment in our region.

The day began with a warm Opening Prayer from Laura Gervais of the Knowledge Carriers Lodge at Blackfeet Community College, followed by welcoming remarks from Dr. Brad Hall, President of BFCC; Rodney Gervais Jr., Chairman of the Blackfeet Nation; and Wendy Bremner, Vice Chairwoman of the BFCC Board of Trustees.

Throughout the summit, participants engaged in presentations and focus groups designed to spark discussion and identify collaborative opportunities, including:

- "Relationships and Resources" with Don Wetzel Jr. from the Montana Department of Labor
- Blackfeet Language and Culture in the Workplace, led by Melissa Weatherwax, BFCC
- Employer/Employee Relations with Cheryl Madman, BFCC
- Workplace Wellness Activity: "Self-Care: Essential to Personal and Professional Maintenance" by Toni Running Fisher, BFCC
- Employer Challenges, Trends, and Opportunities presented by Dr. Jim Rains, BFCC
- "Tribal Education Initiative - UNLV College of Hospitality", presented by Tammi Tiger, Kristen Jaeger, and Dr. Marta Soligo from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)
- Tribal Gaming and Hospitality Focus Group with UNLV presenters

A special thanks goes to all presenters, attendees, and the University of Las Vegas team for helping make this summit an outstanding success. The day served as a launching point for deeper conversations and partnerships focused on aligning workforce programming with real-world industry needs, while also honoring Blackfeet culture and community values.

Any employers who were unable to attend are highly encouraged to get involved in shaping the future of workforce development at Blackfeet Community College. For more information on how to partner with BFCC, please contact Cheryl Madman at cheryl.madman@bfcc.edu. Together, we are building a more skilled, resilient, and locally empowered workforce—one summit at a time.



BFCC AND 2+2 TEAM SPOTLIGHT STUDENT SUCCESS AT HEC CONFERENCE

Blackfeet Community College is proud to celebrate the powerful presence and leadership of our 2+2 Education Partnership and Curriculum Team at the Spring 2025 Higher Education Consortium (HEC) Conference!

Representing BFCC, our local School Districts, the University of Montana Western, and the Blackfeet Nation, our team delivered a presentation that embodied this year's theme: "Leveraging Our Sovereignty."

Their participation highlighted how Native-led partnerships and academic programming are shaping the future of education through culturally grounded, collaborative systems. By showcasing the success of our 2+2 students and the strength of our inter-institutional relationships, the team demonstrated what's possible when tribal colleges work in unity with universities and school districts to create lasting change.

The BFCC team shared how our programs honor sovereignty, elevate student voice, and empower Native learners to thrive within higher education. Their leadership, commitment, and cultural advocacy are helping to inspire educational transformation across the region. Want to hear directly from our students?

Watch our 2+2 Student Testimonials on YouTube to hear firsthand how this partnership is making a difference in their lives and communities: https://youtu.be/rAvvv68t-C0?si=M5WjDCjgKHg_y2b6

We extend a huge thank you to everyone involved in sharing our story and uplifting the future of Native education. BFCC is proud to be part of this movement toward equity, empowerment, and educational excellence.



STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



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CELEBRATING EARTH DAY AT BFCC: GROWING TOGETHER, ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

Blackfeet Community College recently welcomed spring with a spirited Earth Day celebration, hosted by the USDA Extension Program at BFCC. The event brought students, families, and community members together in honor of trees, sustainability, and the strength of our shared roots.

Thanks to the generous support of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), attendees had the opportunity to take home a variety of native seedlings to plant and nurture. In total, the DNRC donated:

- 48 lilac bushes
- 96 serviceberry seedlings
- 33 two-year-old serviceberry plants
- 48 chokecherry seedlings
- 58 golden currant bushes



These trees and shrubs will soon take root throughout the community, helping to support local ecosystems and add beauty to our landscapes.

Participants from the BFCC Family Tree Program, community members, and students from Heart Butte School joined in the day's activities. Alongside the tree giveaway, guests enjoyed educational presentations on maple syrup production and soil amendments, blending tradition, science, and practical knowledge for all ages. The DNRC also supplied 20 Tree Campus USA hats, celebrating BFCC's commitment to environmental stewardship.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended, supported, and helped grow this event from the ground up. Together, we're cultivating a greener, healthier future, one tree at a time.



SUMMER 2025 SPECIAL TOPIC COURSE: MASSAGE THERAPY

Course #: SCI 290 02

Format: In-Person | Dates: May 19-23 & May 27-30

Days/Time: Mon-Thur | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Southwinds Lodge, Room 103

👉 Discover the Healing Power of Touch

Join our 45-hour Chair Massage course and learn techniques to relieve stress, promote relaxation, and enhance well-being. With a blend of anatomy, energy flow, and hands-on practice, you'll develop the skills and confidence to provide therapeutic, compassionate care.

📞 Questions? Contact:

Gordon Bennett | 406.338.5441 ext. 2320

✉ gordon.b@bfcc.edu | 🌐 www.bfcc.edu



MAY SCIENCE WORKSHOP AT BFCC: IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE PART OF THE TRAILS TO RESEARCH PROGRAM

Dates: May 22-23, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (both days)

Learn:

- How antibodies can be used beyond the immune system
- How environmental factors affect nervous system development
- How to visualize fish embryo nervous systems using fluorescent antibodies

Hands-on experience with a key technique in biology and biomedical research, immunofluorescence. Think and work like a scientist!

Free Workshop - Materials Provided

Complementary to the Trails to Research Zebrafish Course at MSU-Bozeman (June 8-13, 2025)

Register: Contact Betty Matthews at b_matthews@bfcc.edu

Questions: Email Christa Merzdorf at merzdorf@montana.edu or Betty Matthews

To view a preview of the workshop, visit our YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/aNNS5nsRCnY?si=NQqJlLuEEMMNddU>



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EXPLORE STEM THIS SUMMER: FULLY FUNDED RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY AT MSU FOR TRIBAL COLLEGE STUDENTS

A Fully Funded STEM Experience for Tribal College Students at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT.

June 8-13, 2025

What's Included:

- Free travel to MSU
- Room & meals in MSU dorms
- \$400 stipend

Who Can Apply:

- Enrolled in a Tribal College during Spring 2025
- No prior lab experience required, just an interest in STEM!

What You'll Do:

- Conduct hands-on research with zebrafish embryos
- Explore how different substances affect development
- Learn valuable lab techniques and prepare for future summer research programs

Final Application Deadline: May 1, 2025

(Rolling admissions, you'll be notified within a month of applying)

Apply Online & Learn More:

www.montana.edu/trailstoresearch

Questions? Contact:

Dr. Christa Merzdorf - merzdorf@montana.edu



BLACK TIE & BLUE JEANS RETURNS TO SUPPORT BFCC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Blackfeet Community College is proud to announce the return of its signature Black Tie & Blue Jeans fundraising event—this year serving as the closing celebration for the 2025 International Blackfoot Research Conference.

Join us on Friday, June 13, 2025, at the Cut Bank Civic Center, with doors opening at 6:00 PM. The evening promises a perfect blend of elegance and western flair, featuring live music by Clint Reimann, a mouthwatering prime rib dinner, and both live and silent auctions. Whether you show up in formalwear or your favorite jeans and boots, the night will be one to remember. As the final event of the International Blackfoot Research Conference, Black Tie & Blue Jeans will celebrate the knowledge shared and connections made during the week, bringing together educators, researchers, and community members in support of a common goal: student success.

All proceeds from the evening will benefit BFCC student scholarships, helping more students access higher education and reach their goals.

Silent Auction Donations Welcome

We're seeking silent auction items! To donate, please contact Brandi Harwood at 21brandi.h@bfcc.edu or call (406) 338-5441 ext. 2201.

Get Your Tickets Today

To purchase tickets, reach out to Ashlynn Marasco at ashlynn.m@bfcc.edu.

Don't miss this festive and meaningful evening—a night of community, culture, and giving back. We look forward to seeing you there as we close out the 2025 International Blackfoot Research Conference in style!

SUMMER PHYSICS AT BFCC: PHSX 215/216 FUNDAMENTALS OF PHYSICS - 3-WEEK COURSE

Dates: May 19 - June 5, 2025

Location: Blackfeet Community College

Indigenous Science Meets Physics

- Hands-on, discovery-based learning
- No math background needed
- Learn by doing, not memorizing

Topics Include:

Electric Circuits | Properties of Matter | Kinematics | Astronomy

Instructor: Tom Böttger, MSU-Bozeman Physics Professor

Questions?

Betty Henderson Matthews - b_mathews@bfcc.edu | 406-338-5441 ext. 2800

Tom Böttger - thomas.bottger@montana.edu

Register Now: <https://my.bfcc.edu/ICS/Admissions>

BFCC GRADUATION POWWOW RETURNS - A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AND ACHIEVEMENT

Blackfeet Community College is proud to announce the return of our Graduation Powwow, a powerful celebration of student achievement, culture, and community spirit. This special event will take place on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at the Dance Arbor (Multipurpose Building) in Browning, Montana.

Graduation Commencement will be held the day before, on Friday, May 16th from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM, where we will honor and recognize the academic accomplishments of our 2025 graduates.

The celebration continues with the Graduation Powwow on Saturday: Grand Entry begins at 1:00 PM, and the celebration will continue until 7:00 PM.

We are honored to welcome Willow Creek Singers as our host drum, and we look forward to a full day of dance, music, and community. This powwow is not only a tribute to our graduates' academic journeys but also a way to bring the community together in support and celebration. Specials will include:

- Rabbit Dance Special
- Owl Dance Special
- Cowboy Dance Special

The first 7 drums to sign in will be paid, so drum groups are encouraged to arrive early.

Vendor tables are available!

- Food Vendors: \$50 or \$25 for students
- Retail Vendors: \$40 or \$25 for students

To sponsor a special or to reserve a vendor table, please contact Treyace Yellowowl at 18treacey.yo@bfcc.edu.

We invite all BFCC graduates to come in regalia and celebrate your milestone with family, friends, and the community. Everyone is welcome to attend and support the graduates as we honor their accomplishments in a way rooted in tradition and cultural pride.

Let's gather, honor, and celebrate—May 16th and 17th at BFCC!

BFCC EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- NACTEP STEM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 - \$16.00 - \$17.00 / HOUR
 - REGULAR FULL-TIME



For more information on employment opportunities visit www.bfcc.edu or scan the code with your phone camera! Contact Human Resource Director: Daisy gilham 406.338.5441 ext. 2204 d.gilham@bfcc.edu