

# BFCC MAGPIE



SEPTEMBER 2025

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## USDA INTERN APPLIES SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES TO FORAGE AND INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT

Rylee Bird Rattler, a USDA BFCC Tribal College Extension Program Intern, is gaining hands-on experience in nutritional feed analysis to determine appropriate feeding amounts for multispecies grazing on the Blackfeet Reservation. She is overseeing core samples from a "lot" of hay harvested at Blackfeet Community College's forage crop site, sending them to Dairyland Laboratories for nutrient analysis to ensure high-quality grass feed.

In addition, Rylee is implementing natural methods to manage invasive knapweed. She released 315 *Cyphocleonus achates* (Knapweed Root Weevils) on BFCC rangeland monitoring sites and plans to release 315 *Larinus minutus/obtusatus* (Knapweed Seed Head Weevils) in the spring. This biocontrol work is coordinated with Montana State University and the Glacier County Extension Office.

Rylee will also develop a poster in collaboration with the USDA Tribal Extension Program, which will be presented at the First American Land-Grant Consortium (FALCON) Conference. Her work demonstrates the integration of practical forage management and environmentally sustainable strategies, benefiting both the land and the tribal community.



## INDIAN EQUITY FUND APPLICATION TRAINING

BFCC is hosting two Indian Equity Fund (IEF) Application Training workshops to help Native American entrepreneurs in Montana start or grow their businesses.

Dates & Times:

- September 17, 2025 | 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- October 9, 2025 | 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- Location: BFCC Room 138, Browning, MT

These free workshops cover grant eligibility, application steps, and business planning with LivePlan. Lunch is provided.

Register by:

- Sept. 16 for the Sept. 17 session
- Oct. 8 for the Oct. 9 session

Co-sponsored by NACDC, BFCC, Montana SBDC, and Great Falls Development Alliance.

Contact Rich Gannon, (406) 836-2078 for more info.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **SEPTEMBER 1:** BFCC CLOSED
- **SEPTEMBER 1 - 5:** ART SHOW - MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY
- **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
  - KOOPII (SOUP) TUESDAY - 12:00PM - KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS LODGE
- **SEPTEMBER 3:** CRAFT WEDNESDAY - 2:00PM - 4:00PM - KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS LODGE
- **SEPTEMBER 10:** CRAFT WEDNESDAY - 2:00PM - 4:00PM - KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS LODGE
- **SEPTEMBER 15:**
  - SPRING 2026 GRADUATION APPLICATIONS DUE
  - LAST DAY TO ADD A CLASS FOR CANCELLED CLASSES
- **SEPTEMBER 16:**
  - EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS & RESUME BUILDING - LEARNING CENTER
  - KOOPII (SOUP) TUESDAY - 12:00PM - KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS LODGE
- **SEPTEMBER 17:**
  - CONSTITUTION DAY
  - INDIAN EQUITY FUND TRAINING 9:00AM - 1:00PM - BPL ROOM 138
- **SEPTEMBER 22:** LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS WITHOUT A GRADE
- **SEPTEMBER 23:** COMPUTER LITERACY WORKSHOP - 2:00PM - 4:00PM - LEARNING CENTER
- **SEPTEMBER 24:** ELDER'S LUNCH 11:00AM - 4:00PM
- **SEPTEMBER 24 - 25:** DAYS OF THE PIIKANI
- **SEPTEMBER 26:** CRAFT WEDNESDAY - 2:00PM - 4:00PM - KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS LODGE
- **SEPTEMBER 30:** KOOPII (SOUP) TUESDAY - 12:00PM - KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS LODGE

SCAN OR CLICK TO REGISTER



SEPTEMBER 17TH



OCTOBER 9TH

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## STUDY, RESEARCH, CREATE: WHAT YOU'LL FIND AT MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY

The Medicine Spring Library is a cornerstone of Blackfeet Community College and the greater Blackfeet Reservation, serving three important purposes: it is the academic library for BFCC students and faculty, the community archives for the Blackfeet Nation, and a public library for all residents of the reservation. Through outreach, programming, and partnerships, the library continues to meet the needs of the "universal community."

### What You'll Find at Medicine Spring Library

- Study & Meeting Spaces – Reserve a study pod or the conference room directly from the library webpage.
- Archives – Explore a renowned collection preserving the history and records of the Blackfeet community.
- Technology & Research Help – Access WiFi, computers, printing, scanning, and interlibrary loans. Staff are also available for research assistance and classroom visits.
- Extensive Online Resources – From JSTOR and ProQuest to Montana History Portal, Ancestry, and the Blackfoot Digital Library, students and community members have access to top academic and historical databases.
- Collections & Policies – A wide range of materials is available, guided by thoughtful collection development and circulation policies to serve diverse needs.

### Programs & Events

The library is also a lively community gathering place, offering activities for all ages:

- Craft Fridays
- Sketchtober (a daily drawing challenge every October)
- Annual Art Show (August 25 - September 5)
- Summer Reading Program (in partnership with Glacier County Libraries)
- Ongoing community activities that include art, literacy, archives, and academic programming.

### Meet the Team

- Aaron Lafromboise, Library Director
- Kimberly Old Chief, Library Technician
- Joseph D. Rutherford, Library Network Technician

The Medicine Spring Library is proud to serve students, families, and community members alike—providing resources that promote education, literacy, culture, and connection. Whether you're researching for a class, looking for family-friendly programs, or simply want a quiet space to read, the library is here for you.

👉 Visit the [library webpage](#) to reserve study spaces, explore the catalog, access archives, or see the events calendar. Be sure to follow on Facebook, Instagram, and Vimeo for the latest updates.

## MEET OUR NEWLY ELECTED STAFF AND FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS!

Blackfeet Community College is excited to welcome the newly elected members of our Staff and Faculty Senate. These leaders will represent and support their colleagues, helping to shape a stronger, more connected campus community.

### Staff Senate:

- Chair: Gaylene Ducharme
- Vice Chair: Brandi Harwood
- Secretary: Ryann Parsons

### Faculty Senate:

- Chair: Jim Peterson
- Vice Chair: Cody Henderson
- Secretary: Shannon Salois

We're thrilled to have their leadership and look forward to the positive impact they will bring to BFCC. Please join us in congratulating and getting to know our new Senate members!



(LEFT TO RIGHT) BRANDI, GAYLENE, RYANN



(LEFT TO RIGHT) JIM, SHANNON, AND CODY



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## THE AKITAWMAHKAIKSI CLUB EMBARKS ON CULTURAL EXCHANGE TO IRELAND

The Akitawmahkaiksi Club (The Ones Who Travel) is preparing for an exciting journey to Ireland this September as part of a cultural exchange program. This new club is dedicated to fostering international connections and hopes to continue its relationship with Irish partners while exploring opportunities for future exchanges with other cultures.

The trip will take place from September 19–23 at Myross Wood in Leap, West Cork, organized by the Local Creative Youth Partnership, who visited Montana in May. The program will celebrate and explore Irish Traveller Culture, and the Youth Services Team in Cork is eager to continue supporting this initiative.

To help fund the trip, club members are selling raffle tickets for \$25 each or 5 for \$100, with two chances to win:

- First Prize: 2 lower-level NFL tickets to any regular-season game plus a 2-night hotel stay near the stadium.
- Second Prize: 2 lower-level NFL tickets.

Tickets can be purchased from club members Melisa Trombley, Laura LaTray, Morgan Sellars, Tiffany Sellars, Justine Momberg, at the Medicine Spring Library, or online at <https://givebutter.com/AQyflx>. The raffle drawing will be held live on Facebook at 4 p.m. on September 8th.

The Akitawmahkaiksi Club looks forward to an enriching experience in Ireland and hopes this exchange will inspire continued cultural collaboration and new opportunities for future students.



SCAN OR CLICK TO



PURCHASE TICKETS  
ONLINE

## ADVANCING TRIBAL ENERGY: BFCC HOSTS CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION FELLOWS

Blackfeet Community College is proud to announce that it has been selected as a host institution for the Department of Energy and Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) Clean Energy Innovation Fellowship Program. Through this program, BFCC has been awarded two Clean Energy Innovation Fellows to support the Facilities and Institutional Development Offices in advancing clean energy solutions that decarbonize the power system, electrify transportation, and promote resilience, equity, and inclusivity in energy systems. The college, a tribal institution that serves as a living laboratory for innovation, integrates Blackfeet culture and language into its mission while working toward energy sovereignty for the community. The fellows—Amishi Singh, a recent environmental justice and policy graduate from the University of Montana, and Marlowe Lawson, a renewable energy and community engagement professional from Washington—will provide advisory support, assist with community energy planning, and contribute to training curriculum that develops the next generation of energy professionals. Amishi and Marlowe bring expertise in environmental sciences, data analysis, energy policy, and community engagement, and they are eager to collaborate with BFCC and the surrounding community to address regional energy challenges.



AMISHI SINGH (LEFT)

MARLOWE LAWSON  
(RIGHT)



## EXPANDING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES WITH OUR NEW CEU PLATFORM

Blackfeet Community College is excited to announce the launch of our new Continuing Education Unit (CEU) learning platform, an extension of our Canvas system developed by the same company. This innovative platform allows us to expand our capacity by 1,400 online seats, offering accessible, high-quality learning opportunities to a wide audience. Our initial focus will be on Blackfeet language courses, supporting the preservation and revitalization of our language. In the near future, we plan to offer a variety of exploratory courses and community-focused programs, including anger management and parenting classes.

The platform is designed to be intuitive, user-friendly, and versatile. It can be used for professional development through micro-credentials, and we can generate CEU transcripts for participants. With its broad capabilities and our creative approach, we aim to develop a storefront of CEU courses that will appeal to learners from diverse backgrounds. In a notable partnership, Blackfeet Community College will provide cultural courses for Glacier National Park employees. These courses will educate staff about Blackfeet culture and history, helping create a more enriching experience for park visitors.

This launch represents an exciting step forward for BFCC as we continue to offer innovative educational opportunities that honor our heritage, strengthen our community, and promote lifelong learning.