

# BFCC MAGPIE



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024

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RAMONA "MONA" KIPLING, TAYAN ENGLAND, DAKOTA NORRUNNER, LISA AIMSBACK, & KANE GILHAM



CHRISTIE FARMER, DAISY GILHAM, BRAD HALL & KIM DEROCHE SERVING LUNCH

## TOP NEWS

- MEET OUR STUDENT SENATE! CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DEDICATED STUDENTS WHO HAVE STEPPED UP TO BE YOUR VOICE ON CAMPUS! YOUR STUDENT SENATE IS HERE TO REPRESENT YOU AND MAKE SURE YOUR CONCERNS, IDEAS, AND QUESTIONS ARE HEARD. PRESIDENT DAKOTA NO RUNNER, VICE PRESIDENT LISA AIMSBACK, SECRETARY RAMONA KIPLING, TREASURER KANE GILHAM, & STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TAYAN ENGLAND. DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO THEM FOR ANY CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS. THEY'RE HERE TO HELP MAKE YOUR STUDENT EXPERIENCE THE BEST IT CAN BE! STOP BY AND GET INVOLVED—YOUR VOICE MATTERS!
- THE ELDER LUNCHEONS HAVE BEGUN FOR THE FALL SEMESTER, MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF BFCC, THE BLACKFEET DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM, AND THE EAGLE SHIELDS PROGRAM. THIS MONTH'S EVENT WAS HELD DURING THE DAYS OF THE PIIKANI, WHERE OUR ELDERS ENJOYED PRESENTATIONS AND A VARIETY OF SOUPS AND BANNOCK. FUTURE LUNCHEONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 16TH, NOVEMBER 20TH, AND DECEMBER 16TH. FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE REFER TO OUR FLYERS OR CONTACT LAURA GERVAIS OR KIM DEROCHE 406-338-5441 EXTENSION 2235.

## COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE: A TRIBUTE TO OUR JOURNEY AND LEADERS

ON OCTOBER 21ST, 2024, FROM 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE WILL PROUDLY CELEBRATE TWO MAJOR MILESTONES: 50 YEARS AS A TRIBALLY CHARTERED COLLEGE AND 30 YEARS AS A USDA LAND GRANT INSTITUTION. THE EVENT WILL FEATURE SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKERS THAT HONOR OUR PAST WHILE LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE. OUR PRESENTATIONS WILL INCLUDE REFLECTIONS FROM BFCC FOUNDERS, FIRST AMERICAN LANDGRANT CONSORTIUM (FALCON), USDA EXTENSION, NATIVE SCIENCE FIELD CENTER, AND USDA EQUITY. JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL DAY AS WE HONOR OUR LEGACY, CELEBRATE COMMUNITY, AND LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION ON THE BLACKFEET NATION.

## CONNECTING GENERATIONS: THE AAHSIIKS KOOKAN AT BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THIS SEMESTER, BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BFCC) IS PROUD TO CONTINUE THE AAHSIIKS KOOKAN (KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS LODGE), A PROGRAM DEDICATED TO PROVIDING BLACKFEET NATION ELDERS WITH A WELCOMING SPACE ON CAMPUS. THE LODGE CONNECTS THESE KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS WITH COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AND OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN BFCC'S PROGRAMS, CREATING A BRIDGE BETWEEN GENERATIONS. FAMILIES AND GRANDCHILDREN ARE WELCOME, MAKING IT A TRULY INCLUSIVE SPACE. WEEKLY HOURS FOR THE LODGE ARE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 10 AM TO 3 PM.

THE PROGRAM, LED BY NA'ASIKS AISPOM(K)TAKIIKS (HELPS WITH ELDERS), MRS. LAURA GERVAIS, MED, AND HER ASSISTANT KIM JIRON DEROCHE, FEATURES A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES SUCH AS MONTHLY ELDER LUNCHEONS, CRAFT WEDNESDAYS (2 PM TO 4 PM), AND BI-WEEKLY SOUP TUESDAYS WITH GUEST SPEAKERS. THE PROGRAM ALSO SHARES A "BLACKFEET WORD OF THE WEEK" ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE COLLEGE WEBSITE. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EAGLE SHIELDS CENTER, THE BLACKFEET DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM, MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY, AND CULTURE AND HOPE PROGRAM, THE AAHSIIKS KOOKAN AIMS TO ENRICH BOTH THE ELDERS AND THE COMMUNITY.

STUDENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO JOIN THE AAHSIIKS KOOKAN STUDENT BFCC CLUB TO SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS AND WORK DIRECTLY WITH THE ELDERS. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED, STUDENTS CAN CONTACT KIM JIRON DEROCHE OR LAURA GERVAIS. THIS IS A MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY WHILE LEARNING FROM THE WISDOM OF BLACKFEET ELDERS. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT LAURA GERVAIS OR KIM DEROCHE 406-338-5441 EXTENSION 2235.

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## TYLER BROWN: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE USDA EQUITY PROGRAM

TYLER BROWN, A PAST PARTICIPANT OF THE USDA EQUITY PROGRAM, REFLECTS ON HIS JOURNEY THROUGH THE PROGRAM AND ITS IMPACT ON HIS LIFE. INITIALLY UNSURE OF HIS CAREER PATH AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, TYLER DECIDED TO GIVE COMMUNITY COLLEGE A TRY AND QUICKLY FOUND VALUE IN THE EQUITY PROGRAM. HIS FAVORITE PART WAS THE BLACKFEET LANGUAGE CLASS, WHICH TOOK HIM ON UNIQUE FIELD TRIPS TO HISTORICAL SITES, INCLUDING MUSEUMS IN CANADA AND HELENA, AND LOCAL AREAS LIKE UPPER TWO MEDICINE AND ST. MARY'S. THESE EXPERIENCES NOT ONLY DEEPENED HIS CONNECTION TO HIS HERITAGE BUT ALSO PREPARED HIM FOR THE TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY LIFE.

TYLER NOW SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE WITH YOUNGER COMMUNITY MEMBERS, ENCOURAGING THEM TO ENROLL IN THE PROGRAM AS A WAY TO EXPLORE THEIR INTERESTS AND CAREER OPTIONS. AFTER COMPLETING THE PROGRAM, TYLER TOOK TIME TO EXPLORE VARIOUS OUTDOOR CAREERS AND MOVED TO DIFFERENT CITIES, INCLUDING MISSOULA AND ALBUQUERQUE, TO EXPERIENCE NEW OPPORTUNITIES. HE CREDITS THE WRITING SKILLS HE GAINED THROUGH THE EQUITY PROGRAM WITH HELPING HIM SECURE SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA. TYLER EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING ACTION, APPLYING THE LESSONS HE LEARNED TO WHATEVER FUTURE CAREER OR ADVENTURE MAY COME HIS WAY.



BFCC STAFF GABRIELA RODRIGUEZ-VELEZ, ALI SMITH, ASHLYNN MARASCO, AND AYANINA OLD PERSON CHEER ON TYLER IN THE EAST GLACIER HALF MARATHON WHERE HE PLACED 2ND IN HIS AGE CATEGORY!

## HONOR YOUR LIFE: A DAY OF HEALING AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

THE BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECENTLY HOSTED A POWERFUL "HONOR YOUR LIFE" EVENT IN COLLABORATION WITH SEVERAL LOCAL PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE BLACKFEET DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM AND THE CULTURE AND HOPE PROGRAM. THIS INITIATIVE BROUGHT TOGETHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS AFFECTED BY SUICIDE LOSS TO SHARE EXPERIENCES AND DEVELOP EFFECTIVE COPING STRATEGIES. TONI RUNNINGFISHER, DIRECTOR OF HOLISTIC WELLNESS AT BFCC, COLLABORATED WITH PARTNER PROGRAMS TO CREATE AND FACILITATE THIS IMPACTFUL EVENT. THE DAY FEATURED A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES AND PRESENTATIONS FOCUSED ON MINDFULNESS, SELF-CARE STRATEGIES, AND BUILDING SUPPORT SYSTEMS. CULTURAL ELEMENTS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE, INCLUDING A MOVING PERFORMANCE BY LELAND LUKIN, WHO SANG A SONG HONORING THOSE LOST TO SUICIDE. ANGEL LITTLE PLUME SPOKE ON THE HEALING POWER OF THE JINGLE DRESS DANCE, FOLLOWED BY A PERFORMANCE BY BHS JINGLE DRESS DANCERS. NOTABLE SPEAKERS TERRANCE LAFROMBOISE, MSW-ITR, AND DONNIE WETZEL, CEO OF MONTANA INDIAN ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME, ALSO SHARED THEIR INSIGHTS. THIS COLLABORATIVE EFFORT EXEMPLIFIED THE COMMUNITY'S COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES AND PROMOTING HEALING THROUGH A BLEND OF TRADITIONAL WISDOM AND MODERN SUPPORT STRATEGIES. BY BRINGING TOGETHER VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND CULTURAL ELEMENTS, THE EVENT PROVIDED A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO SUPPORTING THOSE AFFECTED BY SUICIDE LOSS AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE.

## STUDENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: BFCC MATH & SCIENCE DIVISION

- THE STARS SCHOLARSHIP, SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, OFFERS UP TO \$5,000 PER SEMESTER TO EIGHT BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, HYDROLOGY, OR PRE-ENGINEERING PROGRAMS. STUDENTS WITH A 3.0 GPA OR HIGHER CAN CONTINUE RECEIVING THE SCHOLARSHIP, WHICH CAN FOLLOW THEM TO PARTNER INSTITUTIONS. APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED YEAR-ROUND, WITH PRIORITY FOR THOSE APPLYING BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2024.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT BETTY HENDERSON-MATTHEWS, NATALIE MALATERRE, PAM ATKINS, SHANNON SALOIS, OR CLIFF HALL. FOR MORE CRITERIA INFO & TO APPLY SCAN THE CODE HERE.



- THE GREER FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS \$1,500 PER SEMESTER FOR UP TO FOUR SEMESTERS TO BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS IN STEM PROGRAMS, INCLUDING HEALTH SCIENCE, PRE-ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, AND HYDROLOGY. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT GAYLENE DUCHARME AT GATK@BFCC.EDU.
- THE NARCH INTERNSHIPS AT BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE, FUNDED BY A \$2.1 MILLION GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, OFFER RESEARCH AND CAREER ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF THE BLACKFEET NATION. FOUR STUDENT INTERNSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE ENROLLED IN PRE-ENGINEERING, HEALTH SCIENCE, ANTHROPOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH, AND HYDROLOGY. INTERNS EARN \$15 PER HOUR AND WORK 10 HOURS WEEKLY DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR AND 40 HOURS WEEKLY IN THE SUMMER. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT NATALIE MALATERRE OR BETTY HENDERSON-MATTHEWS.
- THE ALL NATIONS ALLIANCE FOR MINORITY PARTICIPATION (ANAMP) IS A NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION INITIATIVE AIMED AT INCREASING NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS' SUCCESS IN STEM FIELDS. IT OFFERS FINANCIAL STIPENDS, CONFERENCE TRAVEL ASSISTANCE, AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES TO ELIGIBLE STEM STUDENTS.

BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH SALISH-KOOTENAI COLLEGE TO OFFER THIS SCHOLARSHIP. FOR MORE INFORMATION, STUDENTS CAN APPLY AT THE CODE HERE OR CONTACT MIKE MCKAY.



JAZLYN NEWROBE, ALYSSA BLACKMAN, ANGEL LITTLEPLUME, AVERIONA SKUNKCAP, & SIERRA SCOUT POSING WITH THE PHOTOS OF LATE WYATT MADPLUME AND JASPER RATTLER

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## CELEBRATING KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE: DAYS OF THE PIIKANI 2024

THE DAYS OF THE PIIKANI TOOK PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 25TH AND 26TH, GATHERING THE BLACKFEET NATION COMMUNITY FOR A RICH EXCHANGE OF CULTURE AND KNOWLEDGE. THE EVENT KICKED OFF ON THE FIRST DAY WITH INSIGHTFUL SESSIONS, STARTING WITH A KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON THE LAME BULL TREATY BY CLIFF HALL. PARTICIPANTS THEN ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS LED BY VERNON MARCEAU AND A PANEL ON BUFFALO PRESERVATION FEATURING EMMETTE DUSTYBULL, BRANDON KITSON, AND KENNY BIRD. IN THE AFTERNOON, ATTENDEES COULD CHOOSE TO EITHER ATTEND WILBERT FISH'S PRESENTATION ON HERBAL MEDICINE AT UPPER CUT BANK CREEK OR OTHER ENGAGING SESSIONS, INCLUDING STEPHANIE BOSTWICK ON THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, MIKE BRUISED HEAD DISCUSSING BLACKFEET LANGUAGE IN WATERTON PARK, AND FELIX NEZ FROM USDA EXTENSION SHOWCASING STUDENT PROJECTS. THE SECOND DAY BEGAN WITH A KEYNOTE ON THE WINTER'S DOCTRINE BY TED HALL, FOLLOWED BY A PIIKANI TEA SOCIAL HOSTED BY MARISSA BREMNER. PARTICIPANTS ENJOYED A VARIETY OF ENGAGING SESSIONS, INCLUDING INSIGHTS FROM WILBERT FISH AND DISCUSSIONS ON BLACKFEET ANIMALS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL RELATIONS BY SMOKEY RIDESATTHEDOOR. THE DAY ALSO FEATURED DARNELL RIDESATTHEDOOR DISCUSSING BLACKFEET HERBOLOGY AND CONCLUDED WITH DANIELLE GERVAIS PRESENTING ON THE FAST BLACKFEET INITIATIVE. OVERALL, THE DAYS OF THE PIIKANI CELEBRATED BLACKFEET CULTURE AND COMMUNITY, REINFORCING THE IMPORTANCE OF SHARING KNOWLEDGE ACROSS GENERATIONS.



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TO PLACE AN ARTICLE IN THE BFCC MAGPIE  
PLEASE CONTACT PAULA BREMNER  
PBREMNER@BFCC.EDU

## MEET OUR ENROLLMENT SERVICES TEAM & WIN PRIZES FOR PRE-REGISTRATION!

GET TO KNOW OUR AMAZING ENROLLMENT SERVICES CREW: SANDI RUNNING CRANE, HELEN HORN, SHANELL HORN, GAYLENE DUCHARME, AND DESIREE BROWN LOPEZ. THEY ARE HERE TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE PRE-REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR SPRING 2025, ENSURING A SMOOTH AND STRESS-FREE EXPERIENCE.

WE'RE EXCITED TO OFFER INCENTIVE DRAWINGS FOR ALL STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE PRE-REGISTRATION! THE FIRST 100 STUDENTS TO PRE-REGISTER WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING TO WIN GIFT CARDS AND OTHER PRIZES, INCLUDING THREE \$100 GIFT CARDS!

- PRE-REGISTRATION FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS: NOVEMBER 18-19, 2024
- PRE-REGISTRATION FOR CURRENT STUDENTS: NOVEMBER 20 & 21 AND DECEMBER 2 & 3, 2024

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE YOUR CLASSES AND HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES!



## VETERAN SERVICES AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE THROUGH GPVSC

THE GREAT PLAINS VETERAN SERVICES CENTER (GPVSC) IS HERE TO ASSIST VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH A RANGE OF SERVICES. IF YOU HAVE VA-RELATED QUESTIONS, STOP IN TO SEE LEO POLLOCK OR RAMONA CROFF, OR CALL US AT 406-338-2111 EXT. 2155. FOR VETERANS IN NEED OF TRANSPORTATION TO VA OR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS, SHANE SINCLAIR OFFERS RIDES—JUST CONTACT HIM AT 406-390-4207 AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE FOR LOCAL RIDES AND 48 HOURS FOR LONGER TRIPS. GPVSC ALSO PROVIDES VETERAN SUPPORTIVE SERVICES: REACH OUT TO RYAN HOYT AT 406-317-5434 FOR ASSISTANCE. ADDITIONALLY, MONTANA VETERANS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE BLACKFEET VETERANS ALLIANCE OFFICE ON OCTOBER 1 AND 15 FROM 1 PM TO 4 PM. FOR CRISIS SUPPORT, DIAL 988, THEN PRESS 1, TO CONNECT WITH THE VETERAN CRISIS LINE IN MONTANA.



BLACKFEET VETERANS DANIELLE CRAWFORD & RAMONA CROFF

## IMPORTANT DATES!

- **OCTOBER 1ST:**
  - OPENING DAY OF THE 2025-26 FAFSA
  - ON-CAMPUS SCAVENGER HUNT - LEARNING CENTER
- **OCTOBER 2ND:** AIBL MEETING - STUDENT COMMONS - 11:30AM - 12:30PM
- **OCTOBER 3RD:** FIRST PELL PAYOUT
- **OCTOBER 8TH:** FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP (WRITING SCHOLARSHIPS) - LEARNING CENTER - 2:00 PM - 4:00PM
- **OCTOBER 14TH:** INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY (BFCC CLOSED)
- **OCTOBER 15TH:** ICE CREAM SOCIAL - STUDENT COMMONS
- **OCTOBER 18TH:** AUTHOR READING & ART TALK (JARED TAILFEATHERS) - MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY - 4:00PM - 7:00PM
- **OCTOBER 21ST:** ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - STUDENT COMMONS - 9:00AM - 1:00PM
- **OCTOBER 22ND:** SCARY MOVIE - STUDENT COMMONS
- **OCTOBER 29TH:** FALLOWEEN PARTY & CONTEST - STUDENT COMMONS
- **NOVEMBER 5TH:** FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP (PERSONAL FINANCES AND CREDIT) - LEARNING CENTER - 2:00 PM - 4:00PM
- **NOVEMBER 8TH:** DEADLINE FOR THE AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND BFCC TCU SCHOLARSHIP FOR FALL 2024
- **NOVEMBER 11:** WARRIOR'S DAY (BFCC CLOSED)
- **NOVEMBER 12TH:** BEADING EXTRAVAGANZA - BPL COMMONS
- **NOVEMBER 13TH:** CAREER FAIR - BPL STUDENT COMMONS
- **NOVEMBER 18-19:**
  - SPRING 2025 PRE-REGISTRATION (GRADUATING STUDENTS)
- **NOVEMBER 19TH:** THANKSGIVING BINGO AND FOOD BASKET DISTRIBUTION - STUDENT COMMONS
- **NOVEMBER 20TH & 21ST:**
  - SPRING 2025 PRE-REGISTRATION (CURRENT STUDENTS)
  - AICF BFCC TCU SCHOLARSHIP DISPURSEMENTS
- **NOVEMBER 25-29:** THANKSGIVING BREAK (BFCC CLOSED)

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- **TUESDAYS:** SOUP TUESDAY - KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS ROOM
- **WEDNESDAYS:** CRAFT WEDNESDAYS - KNOWLEDGE CARRIERS ROOM - 2:00PM - 4:00PM
- **FRIDAYS:** CRAFT FRIDAYS - MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY - ALL DAY
- **OCTOBER:** SKETCHTOBER - MEDICINE SPRING LIBRARY

## BFCC EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- STUDENTS ACCOUNTS SPECIALIST
  - \$37,4400 - 41,600/YEAR FULL TIME
  - NON EXEMPT
- RESEARCH LABORATORY TECHNICIAN
  - \$38,000 - 41,600 /YEAR FULL TIME
  - NON EXEMPT

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES VISIT OUR WEBSITE BELOW OR SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA HERE!

CONTACT HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR:

DAISY GILHAM EXT. 2204

D.GILHAM@BFCC.EDU

[HTTPS://SECURE3.SAASHR.COM/TA/B5441.CAREERS?CAREERSEARCH](https://secure3.saashr.com/TA/B5441.CAREERS?CAREERSEARCH)

