

DATE: 12/10/2008

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Stefani Hicswa
President, Miles Community College

RE: Campus Report for the January 8, 2009 Board of Regents' Meeting

- Josh Bilbrey, Miles Community College Equine Studies Instructor, won the 2008 NILE (Northern International Livestock Exposition) Horse Trainers Challenge event at the Billings NILE on Friday, October 17. Josh was one of three horse trainers that were selected by application to take an untrained 5-7 year old registered Quarter Horse donated by the Hall Ranch of Chinook, Montana for 90 days. The horses were brought to the 2008 NILE to compete against each other in a special challenge showcasing the skills of the trainers and the abilities of the horses under saddle. Josh was the trainer with the highest score and was named the 2008 NILE Horse Trainers Challenge Champion. The Challenge horses were sold in a special section of the NILE Gold Buckle Performance Sale on October 18 with the proceeds designated for scholarship funds of the Koenig children of Baker (four children) and the Moline children of Geraldine, Montana (six children). The Koenig family lost both of their parents in a farm accident four years ago and the Moline children lost their mother following a horse accident in fall 2007.
- Jessie Dufner of Miles City, Miles Community College Director of Student Financial/Enrollment Services, was recognized as the recipient of the Oscar R. "Jack" Hendrix Rookie of the Year at the RMASFAA (Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Administrators) Annual Conference held October 19-22 in Sioux City, SD. The award is presented to an individual who is a RMASFAA member and has made a significant "first contribution" to the Association within the last year. Jessie is currently serving as the Membership Chair of RMASFAA and is President-Elect of MASFAA (Montana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators). Jessie was also spotlighted in the October 2008 "*Rocky Mountain Exchange*", the RMASFAA quarterly newsletter. RMASFAA is a professional organization of individuals that work at institutions dedicated to administering college financial aid and represent all types of colleges in Wyoming, Utah, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Kansas and Colorado. Ms. Dufner began employment at Miles Community College in 2002. She was hired as a student recruiter and Carl Perkins coordinator then assumed the Financial Aid Director position from 2003-2006. Jessie was employed as a campus outreach manager for Student Financial Assistance (SAF) for a time before she returned to Miles Community College as the Director of Student Financial/Enrollment Services in 2007.
- James P. Lucas of Miles City, former Miles Community College Board of Trustee and founder and member of the MCC Endowment Board, was honored at the ACCT (Association of Community College Trustees) 39th Annual Community College Leadership Congress in New York City October 29-November 1. Jim Lucas was selected as the 2008 Western Regional Trustee Leadership Award Recipient. He was nominated by the current MCC Board of Trustees and has been an active trustee for over 40 years, member of the College Athletic Booster Club, and has been member and served as president a number of times of the College Endowment Board since its 1964 inception. Mr. Lucas attended the ACCT Congress with his wife, Carol, daughter Leslie, MCC President Hicswa and MCC Board of Trustee members, Sharon Wilcox and Garret McFarland.

- Fall Pioneer Preview Day was held on Monday, November 17. Seventy prospective students and parents attended to learn about MCC academics and advising, housing, campus life, admissions information, and financial assistance. The Student Ambassadors organization provided campus tours for participants.
- Shawn Neary, MCC Head Men's Basketball coach, has been hired for the same position at Gillette College in Wyoming. Neary, currently in his 13th season as Pioneers head coach, will resign from MCC at the end of the fall semester and begin immediately building the program at Gillette College. Gillette College will prepare for their first season of college basketball in 2009-2010 and will compete in the NJCAA Region IX. Coach Neary just recently won his 200th game as MCC's head coach and is the all-time wins leader in Pioneer basketball history and the first coach in the program's history to get 200 wins. He has won a Mon-Dak Conference championship and a north sub region title during his time as the Pioneers head coach. During the Neary era, eighty-six percent of all the sophomores that played for Coach Neary graduated from Miles Community College and eighty-six percent of his sophomores [have](#) transferred to four-year colleges and universities across the country. The Pioneers have also been named NJCAA Academic Team of the Year seven times during Coach Neary's tenure including three times (1998-1999, 2001-2002, 2006-2007) in which they had the highest team grade point average in the nation among junior college men's basketball teams.
- Automotive Technology students provided their 6th annual vehicle winter check on December 5 for the Miles City Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP) organization. The students, under the supervision of Instructor David McIntyre, provided 10-15 senior citizen vehicles with 41 point free inspections as a community service learning project. This annual event provides valuable hands-on and customer service skills learning experience for automotive program students