

MEDIA RELEASE

Miles Community College 2715 Dickinson Street, Miles City, MT 59301 800-541-9281 • milescc.edu • MccNews@milescc.edu

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IMAGE: MCC Softball Inaugural Game Graphic

MCC Softball to Host Inaugural Game and Ceremonies

<u>MILES CITY, MONTANA:</u> Miles Community College (MCC) will be hosting its first ever MCC Pioneer Women's Softball game on Saturday, March 27 at Bender Park. The Inaugural Game will include opening ceremonies, ribbon cutting of the brand-new field, and the official first pitch, before the Pioneers square off in a double header against Dakota College at Bottineau.

The opening ceremonies will begin at 12:30pm at Bender Park (Field 3) in Miles City with games at 1:00pm and 3:00pm. The softball team will again play Dakota College in a double header the following day. The inaugural event, along with all MCC athletic events, is open to the public, and the first 100 fans will receive commemorative t-shirts and sunglasses. Face coverings will be required.

"We are beyond thankful and excited to host our very first home softball game ever," commented MCC Softball Coach Shawna Juarez. "This wouldn't be occurring without the gracious and supportive assistance from numerous community members who donated their time, services, funds, and love to our program."

While established during the 2019-2020 academic year, the MCC Softball team has yet to play on their home field in Miles City due to the postponement of their first season by the

COVID-19 pandemic. "After having our inaugural season taken away from us last year due COVID-19," said Coach Juarez, "this home opener means more to us than one can imagine." The team's 2020-2021 season began earlier this spring with several away games.

"COVID-19 has really impacted athletic operations throughout our conference," commented Richard DeShields, MCC Dean of Student Engagement. "While face coverings are required at our indoor sporting events, we still encourage face coverings at our outdoor sporting events and encourage social distancing. By supporting face coverings, we are helping our student athletes move through their season with limited impacts due to COVID-19."

For more information on the MCC Softball team, visit <u>www.mccpioneers.com</u> or contact Coach Juarez at <u>juarezs@milescc.edu</u> or 406-874-6289.

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