

MEDIA ADVISORY for  
Thursday, May 17, 2012

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## **Students Aim to Break World Records at Graduation Matters Miles City Launch**

Miles City, MT – While thousands arrive in Miles City for the famous Miles City Bucking Horse Sale, students at Custer County High School will be working to gain attention for breaking a Guinness World Record as a school at the launch of Graduation Matters Miles City.

"Graduation Matters is going to be fun and hopefully effective for students. I can't wait for the record breaking!" said Beth Sutter, sophomore at CCDHS.

Custer County High School received a Graduation Matters Challenge Fund grant for \$8,600 from the Office of Public Instruction to launch a community-based effort to increase their graduation rate and ensure students graduate prepared for college and careers. The Office of Public Instruction was awarded \$450,000 over three years from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation to support community-based Graduation Matters initiatives.

"As we embark on our pursuit of raising our graduation rate, we want to have a spectacular assembly that celebrates our successes and launches our new initiative. The tie-in between breaking Guinness records and graduation is that if we can break world records, we can graduate more students," explained Traci Duffin, Graduation Matters Miles City Steering Committee Chair.

Custer County High School has set a goal to improve its graduation rate from 77% in the 2010-2011 school year to 90% for the graduating class of 2014. Graduation Matters Miles City is going to use its Challenge Fund grant to build school and community partnerships, launch an after-school tutoring program to raise achievement and avoid the credit deficiencies, improve internship and job exploration opportunities and support middle school to high school transitions through a new Freshman Orientation program.

**WHO:** Students, school leaders, community leaders, and OPI Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman (more than 600 participants)

**WHAT:** Students will fill out "I pledge to graduate" cards in their morning classes and be entered to win prizes. The Graduation Matters Miles City launch will begin with dancing and speakers, then students will attempt to break a Guinness World record for the largest thumb war. Additionally, students will attempt to break eight individual Guinness World Records. The launch will conclude with a barbeque lunch donated by the Miles City Wal-Mart and Blue Rock Distributing.

**WHERE:** CCDHS gym, 20 South Center, Miles City

**WHEN:** 10:15 AM – 12:35 PM

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