

# Yellowstone County



**COMMISSIONERS**  
(406) 256-2701  
(406) 256-2777 (FAX)

P.O. Box 35000  
Billings, MT 59107-5000  
commission@co.yellowstone.mt.gov

**PRESS RELEASE:**  
March 26, 2021

Our community has a chance to have a state-of-the-art medical school. Rocky Vista University is a solid and professional educational organization. We can and will hold them to high standards and expect as much from them as we do our other professional organizations in our community. We are encouraged to hear that Rocky Vista University and their team are taking the appropriate actions, and plan to come and meet with community leaders and stakeholders for further discussions.

This opportunity with Rocky Vista University has the potential to bring a profound positive economic impact to this region and our state. During the two-year start-up period (2021-23), the expected economic impact of the proposed campus amounts to more than \$78.5 million, will provide 350 jobs and adds more than \$1.2 million in taxes annually. In just five years time, RVU is expected to support more than 300 permanent jobs in our region, generate \$67 million in annual total economic impact and add nearly \$3.5 million in state and local government revenue. It isn't just about the money, it is about moving Yellowstone County into the future, and expanding opportunities for the residents/students of this region.

We must also reflect and ask ourselves how we want to treat businesses, especially when they are faced with accusations in the media. We are very concerned that our own Chamber chose to disengage with the work of RVU, without the opportunity to address the concerns prior to their media release. We believe the better approach would have been outreach and working to understand this complex challenge many businesses are facing today.

Billings has great leaders who can help not only Rocky Vista University, but all of our current and future businesses. We need to show the world that while not perfect, we are willing to reach out to everyone, and help them make good and productive changes as we grow together.

Donald Jones    Chairman, Yellowstone County Commissioner  
Denis Pitman    Yellowstone County Commissioner  
John Ostlund    Yellowstone County Commissioner