

Memorandum

To: Board of Regents

From: Jane Karas, President
Flathead Valley Community College

Re: March 2013 Campus Report

Date: February 8, 2013

- FVCC welcomed a **delegation from China** for the **American Association of Community Colleges and the China Education Association for International Education's Vocational/Technical Education Leadership Training Program**. The two-week program provided intensive learning experiences in an effort to strengthen ties among U.S. community colleges and Chinese vocational and technical institutions. Activities included campus tours, observing classes, meetings with the various academic programs, visits with area employers, cultural activities and social events.
- The **Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Initiative** is moving forward. Grant-funded activities currently underway at FVCC include creating **two new industrial machine technology certificate programs**; purchasing **new computer numerical control mills and lathes** to enhance training; moving the **Montana Manufacturing Extension Center** to FVCC Kalispell campus; renovating the Occupational Trades Building to provide space for two new machining classrooms; hiring an entrepreneurship coordinator, advanced manufacturing specialists, and advisors to work with students; developing internships and apprenticeships with area employers; and developing training focused on computer-assisted learning through the Math Department. Last fall, **Assistant Secretary of the Department of Labor Jane Oates** met with a group of employers and educators for an open discussion on the initiative.
- The new **Rebecca Chaney Broussard Center for Nursing and Health Science** is scheduled to be completed in March. The college plans to hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its first privately-funded building April 30.
- Director, Early Childhood Center **Laurie Peiffer** was presented the **2012 Montana Association for the Education of Young Children (MtAEYC) Early Childhood Service Award** at the annual MtAEYC Early Childhood Conference in Kalispell in October. She received the award for her exemplary service to MtAEYC at the state level while maintaining an active role at the local level to support and serve programs that care for and/or educate young children and/or their families.

- The FVCC Foundation's **Festival of Flavors 2012** fundraising event was a tremendous success, raising **record net proceeds of more than \$100,000** for student scholarships and programs at FVCC. The 10-day festival, comprised of 14 events, highlighted 10 of the Flathead Valley's finest chefs, including **students of The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC** and their professors **Chef Hillary Ginepra** and **Chef Howard Karp**, and culminated with a grand wine tasting event.
- The late Thain and Fay White, former residents of Dayton, left a **\$2.4 million legacy gift** to the FVCC Foundation. The **Thain and Fay White Family Gift** will be established as a permanent endowment to support FVCC and its future needs. Thain was raised near Rollins and helped his father run the White family's Columbia Sheep Company. He was a self-taught historian, archaeologist and naturalist and created the Flathead Lake Lookout Museum near Lakeside in 1949. Fay, a former FVCC student, was a descendant of early Scottish and English pioneers in Canada, and was originally from Mankota, Saskatchewan, Canada.
- Former FVCC student **Captain Jason Curtis**, an F-16 pilot with the **U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds**, delivered a presentation to FVCC engineering students in October during a visit to his hometown of Kalispell. Curtis was selected to serve as the opposing solo pilot this year, and next year, he will serve as the lead solo pilot among the squadron of six pilots that perform up to 88 prestigious air show demonstrations across the nation each year. Curtis will make his debut performance in Montana this summer at the **Mountain Madness 2013 Air Show** in Kalispell.
- Early Childhood Education Professor **Marlyn James** presented "Observational Assessment and Portfolios that Truly Inform Curriculum Planning for Individual Children" at the 2012 National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference in Atlanta. The second edition of James's book, "**Focused Observations, How to Observe Children for Assessment and Curriculum Planning**," was released in January.
- Physics Professor **Jim Boger** is overseeing four physics students and two machining students who have taken the **Montana Space Grant Consortium Challenge** to build a **solar spectrograph**. They will compete with students from 20 other schools across the nation at the **National Student Solar Spectrograph Competition** held at Montana State University in Bozeman in May.
- The FVCC Foundation held its **19th annual Scholarship Award Luncheon** to honor scholarship donors and student scholarship recipients for the 2012-2013 academic year. The luncheon welcomed a crowd of **247 guests** and provided an opportunity for private scholarship donors to meet the student scholarship recipients. Donors were acknowledged for contributing **\$381,975 in FVCC and community-supported scholarships** helping **270 students** attend college. Student scholarship recipients **Justin Vetch, Heather Fraley, Andrew Hart, and Ruth Rickenbacher** addressed guests with their personal stories and the positive impact the scholarships have made on their lives.

- Mechanical engineering student **Tanner Morrison** was awarded a **\$1,500 NASA scholarship**.
- This spring, **Chef's Table**, presented by the students of **The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC**, will team up with the FVCC Foundation to host a special **April in Paris dinner** on April 19. The event will feature a five-course French-themed meal in the ambiance of 1920s Paris along with the sounds of Cole Porter and early jazz by The Don Caverly Quartet. Proceeds will benefit FVCC students with financial needs.
- The **building trades program** will wrap up its **construction of a new building** at **Olney-Bissell School** this spring. The building, constructed by building trades students under the direction of Coordinator, Building Trades Apprentice Program **Greg Waldrop**, will hold a multipurpose classroom, offices and storage space. The building trades program is in its seventeenth year and was founded in partnership with the Flathead Building Association and School District 5 to prepare students for jobs in the construction industry due to the aging workforce. Since its inception, the annual program has involved building a house from the ground up that is sold once completed. The program recently refocused its construction projects to meet community needs.
- In celebration of the 40th anniversary of **Karen Leigh's** career teaching watercolor courses at FVCC, the Art Department hosted a "**40 Years of Watercolor**" exhibit composed of watercolors, some dating back to the 1970s, by Leigh's current and former students. The show opened with a public reception February 7. Throughout her career, Leigh has enabled countless students to realize their artistic aspirations.
- This spring, FVCC, in partnership with **Farm Hands, Montana West Economic Development, Flathead County Economic Development Authority** and the **Lake County Community Development Corporation**, launched a new non-credit "**Multifunctional Farming: Creating New Markets for Your Business**" course to assist farmers and ranchers looking for new and innovative ways to generate farm income. Following the completion of the class, funded by a **Montana Department of Agriculture Growth Through Agriculture grant**, the course materials will be distributed to extension offices and farm and agriculture centers across the state.
- Mathematics Professor **Don Hicketier, Ph.D.**, has been elected to the **Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics board of directors**.
- **Valley Ford** in Kalispell partnered with the FVCC Foundation to hold a **Drive 4 UR Community** event, a new program launched by Ford Motor Company and its dealers to help raise much needed funding for local community groups and nonprofit organizations. For every person who test-drove a new Ford vehicle at Valley Ford during the event, Ford Motor Company and Valley Ford donated \$20 to FVCC. Approximately **\$2,000** was raised to support scholarships and programs at the college.
- Music and Theatre Professor **Craig Naylor** is now a registered presenter for the **Humanities Montana Speakers Bureau and Speakers in the Schools** for his research into "**Unknown Heroes of the Civil War.**"

- FVCC welcomed **hundreds of local elementary and middle school students** to campus for two free performances on Maori culture by **Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Karl Rangikawhiti Leonard**. The children were given a rare opportunity to observe a Maori artist from New Zealand perform in traditional dance regalia while learning about dance, language, customs and history of the Maori people.
- FVCC launched the new “**Gig at the Grounds**” concert series for the community. The free concerts feature live performances by **FVCC music program students and faculty** and are held near the FVCC Campus Grounds coffee bar to provide a casual, coffee house atmosphere.
- FVCC’s Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence **Karl Rangikawhiti Leonard** of New Zealand launched a **three-part fall community lecture series on New Zealand’s Maori people**. Topics included the history and migration of the Maori people, the development of Maori weaving and the art of Maori dance.
- **FVCC Theatre** concluded its fall season with productions of *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Almost, Maine*. Both productions featured casts comprised of new and returning **FVCC Theatre Arts students**.
- **Nearly 70 FVCC students** presented their research projects to the community December 7 during the college’s **Fall Semester Scholars Conference on Student Research**. Twenty student presentations were delivered and more than 30 research posters were showcased during the event. Project topics ranged widely in such categories as anatomy and physiology, anthropology, business, chemistry, ethics, history, natural resources, nursing, physics and psychology.
- FVCC participated in the 54th annual **Whitefish Winter Carnival**. College employees, students, alumni and families participated in the grand parade, while a group of five FVCC Student Ambassadors participated in the Penguin Plunge, helping raise more than \$50,000 for Montana Special Olympics.
- FVCC students **Sierra Baker, Shawnee Welch, Brittany Richter-Foley and Lavon Hill** were named spring 2013 recipients of **Whitefish Credit Union’s Community Pride Scholarships**. The students received scholarships totaling \$1,600 for the spring 2013 semester at FVCC.