

**DATE:** August 17, 2016

**TO:** Board of Regents

**FROM:** Jane Karas, Ph.D.  
President, Flathead Valley Community College

**RE:** Campus Report for the September 14-15, 2016 Board of Regents' Meeting

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- Four (4) FVCC students spent four weeks in **Macapa, Brazil** this summer, mentoring and coaching English as a Second Language to Brazilian high school students through **US-Brazil Connect**. This was the fourth consecutive year FVCC participated in the paid fellowship program which aims to strengthen education and build economic opportunities by connecting communities, engaging leaders and creating transformative learning experiences linking the United States and Brazil.
- Sponsored by a grant from the U.S. State Department's **100,000 Strong in the Americas** program, a group of FVCC **Advanced Manufacturing students and instructors** spent two (2) weeks in Manizales, Colombia in June studying with colleagues at SENA Caldas. FVCC will host a group of SENA Caldas students and instructors in Kalispell in September. The goals of the exchange program are to engage participants in innovative, project-based curriculum while promoting bilingualism and biculturalism.
- FVCC's Board of Trustees voted to award **Swank Enterprises** the contract to construct the **on-campus student housing** facilities. Swank Enterprises' \$7.7 million proposal was the lowest bid received for the project. The college broke ground on the buildings in early August.
- FVCC President Jane A. Karas has been honored with the Association of Community College Trustees **2016 Western Region CEO Award**. Karas will accept the award at the ACCT Congress in New Orleans in October. Karas was also the 2009 recipient of this award.
- On August 4, FVCC honored **eight (8) registered nursing graduates** for completing the Associate of Science in Nursing degree program during a

traditional pinning ceremony.

- FVCC hosted **Montana Shakespeare in the Parks'** production of "**Richard III**" in August. The popular outreach program is offered through Montana State University's College of Arts and Architecture.
- FVCC **Kid's College** returned this summer, offering 35 week-long, half-day classes for children ages six through 14. **Grandparents College** returned for its fifth year, featuring classes that provided an opportunity for grandparents to participate in learning activities with their grandchildren or other young relatives.
- FVCC Executive Chef Howard Karp and the faculty and students of **The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC** presented **Savory Summerfest** on the shore of Flathead Lake in July, raising \$45,000 for student scholarships.
- The FVCC **Summer Experience** program returned this summer, offering nearly 80 local incoming **high school juniors and seniors** a unique new way to earn up to four **free college credits** while providing an authentic college experience.
- For the third year, FVCC hosted the **Governors' Cup Golf Tournament Reception and Sandbagger Barbecue** on its Kalispell campus in July.
- **FVCC's Foundation**, in partnership with the **Bibler Foundation**, hosted summer tours and a Garden Party at the Bibler Home and Gardens to raise money for student scholarships.
- FVCC employees donated hundreds of hours volunteering at the **Event at Rebecca Farm** in July, an internationally recognized equestrian event in the Flathead Valley that raises money for breast cancer research and services to patients.
- FVCC staff and faculty participated in eight (8) hours of **Active Shooter Training** this summer conducted by local law enforcement officers. The training took participants through hands-on exercises in Run, Lock and Fight.
- In response to **Weyerhaeuser's closure** of its plant in Columbia Falls, FVCC staff have been working closely with the Flathead Job Service and Weyerhaeuser to inform **dislocated workers** about retraining and degree

options.

- FVCC held a public meeting in **Libby** on June 23 to share information about the college's **Practical Nurse (PN) and Registered Nurse (RN) degree options**. Myrna Ridenour, the director of FVCC's Nursing Program, discussed upcoming changes to the PN certificate of applied science degree and the RN associate of science degree programs as a result of the **Healthcare Montana** grant.