

Memorandum

To: Board of Regents

From: Jane Karas, President
Flathead Valley Community College

Re: November Campus Report

Date: October 23, 2009

- FVCC honored its first class of student scholars this fall during a special welcoming celebration September 16. The class, consisting of 23 students, is the first to be accepted into the **Scholars Program at Flathead Valley Community College**. Among those who welcomed the students included FVCC President **Jane Karas**; Scholars Program Director **Ivan Lorentzen**; Vice President of Instruction **Kathy Hughes**; founding member of the Scholars Committee **Gregg Davis**; **James McKusick**, dean, Davidson Honors College at The University of Montana; and **Michael Miles**, special projects director, the University Honors Program at Montana State University.
- **Chef James Monroe**, owner and executive chef of The Cutting Board in Eureka and **first runner-up** of the **Ultimate Hometown Grill Off** and **winner** of **America's Best Burger sponsored by Live! With Regis and Kelly**, blasted off **Festival of Flavors**, Flathead Valley Community College Foundation's biggest fundraising event of the year. The 10-day event starred **FVCC culinary arts students** and **11 of the Flathead Valley's finest chefs** and culminated with a grand wine tasting event October 3. Proceeds from all 12 events will support student scholarships and programs at Flathead Valley Community College.
- The **Two Medicine Lake Singers and Dancers** presented a **powwow demonstration** at FVCC September 24. Hosted by **Blackfeet Nation** tribal members **Joe McKay** as the master of ceremony, **Floyd Rider** as the elder dancer and **Ray Croff** as the drum leader along with the Two Medicine Lake Singers and Dancers, the event showcased the teachings of Native American culture through traditional and contemporary dancing, beautiful regalia and group singing on the round drum. The next day, the singers and dancers performed for approximately 300 area elementary school children on campus in celebration of **American Indian Heritage Day**.
- Enrollment at Flathead Valley Community College reached **record numbers** this fall with full-time equivalent enrollment totaling **1,794.7** and headcount totaling **2,501**.
- FVCC hosted **Dr. Ariel Fenster**, national speaker and founding member of McGill University's Office for Science and Society, for a free community lecture, "**Antibiotics and Superbugs: The End of Miracle Drugs?**" September 14. His presentation explored the history of antibiotics, their effectiveness and the unforeseen problems that have resulted from their ensuing popularity. Fenster is the recipient of the U.S. Chemical Manufacturers Association Award for Excellence in Chemistry.

- FVCC hosted the **Kalispell Chamber of Commerce luncheon** September 15. Approximately 150 community members attended the event that centered on the college, its programs and how it is responding to record enrollment. Several FVCC students and a parent of an FVCC student were featured speakers.
- FVCC teamed up with Glacier National Park to present the **2009 Crown of the Continent Lecture Series** on the FVCC campus. The event consisted of four free community lectures featuring topics from the human history of the crown to its distinguishing characteristics that make it stand apart from neighboring and global ecosystems. The series also included a hiking adventure along the North Fork of the Flathead River on the 10,000-year-old Kishenehn Trail. Nearly 475 people attended the series.
- The “**Artist to Artist**” **brown bag lunch series** hosted by FVCC’s Continuing Education Center returned for its fourth season September 16 with the opening presentation “**For Love and/or Money?**” by the college’s new Business Instructor **Chris Hanchett**. Open to the public, the free three-part series aims to deliver information while connecting artists with others in the local art community and presenting guests opportunities to find mentors, share their experiences and reflect on the diversity of arts that flourish in the Flathead. In his presentation, Hanchett identified the entrepreneurial skills required to succeed in making a living from art.
- Flathead Valley Community College Theatre opened its fall season with the delicious comedy, “**The Art of Dining.**” The production was directed by Theatre Instructor **Rich Haptonstall** who came from Valdosta State University in Georgia where he served as an assistant professor of scenic and lighting design for the past five years. FVCC Theatre will continue its season Halloween night with Montana Repertory Project’s production of “ThePoeProject” and will conclude in December with 11 performances of the hit musical “Cabaret.”
- Six FVCC students were named fall 2009 recipients of **Whitefish Credit Union’s Community Pride Scholarships**. **Mike Parker, Natalie Valov, Paige Birks, Leslie Charest, Jessica Lux and Jan West** received \$300 scholarship awards for the fall semester.
- FVCC has been awarded three grants to enhance college resources and provide new opportunities for college students, community members and county organizations. The college was awarded a five-year **U.S. Department of Education Title III grant** in the amount of **\$1,997,367** to improve retention and graduation rates of FVCC students through strengthened academic support and student services and to increase the college’s capacity to analyze institutional data for improved student outcomes and overall institutional performance. **FVCC and Salish Kootenai College** in partnership with the **election offices in Flathead and Lake Counties** received a **\$66,008** grant from the **U.S. Election Assistance Commission** to hire college students to assist election offices in Flathead and Lake Counties as poll workers during local, state and federal elections. In addition, FVCC was awarded a **\$69,982** grant through the **Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act** to develop an online, asynchronous health science introductory course for high school students to provide academic foundations and exploration of careers in the field of health care.