

## Memorandum

**To:** Board of Regents

**From:** Jane Karas, President  
Flathead Valley Community College

**Re:** May 2011 Campus Report

**Date:** April 22, 2011

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- On behalf of the American Association of Community Colleges and Association of Community College Trustees, Flathead Valley Community College President **Jane Karas** presented U.S. Senator **Max Baucus** with the **2011 National Education Service Award** at the Community College National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., February 15. The annual award is presented to a national leader who has made extraordinary efforts to support education, training and postsecondary learning. The award honors Baucus for his commitment to education and to our nation's community colleges. The American Association of Community Colleges and Association of Community College Trustees represent more than 1,200 community, technical and junior colleges as well as 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern the institutions.
- Computer Science Instructor **Nick Thiel** presented student **Steve Leavitt Jr.** a \$1,000 **Terry O'Banion Student Developer Champion Award** at the college's Board of Trustees meeting March 21. Leavitt is one of two students in the nation who received a student technology award through the League for Innovation.
- The Ambassadors and Alumni of FVCC held its spring luncheon March 17. Featured speakers were FVCC alumnus and *Daily Inter Lake* Publisher **Rick Weaver** and **Ben Woody**, FVCC Scholars Program student, editor of *The Mercury News* and Georgetown Journalism Scholarship recipient. FVCC Ambassador and Alumni Chair **Suzy Williams** presented the **2011 Distinguished Alumni Award** to **Margaret LeKander**, owner of Wheaton's in Kalispell. The FVCC culinary arts students prepared an Irish lunch for nearly 100 guests who attended.
- The FVCC Board of Trustees, FVCC President Jane Karas and the college faculty recognized retired faculty **Robert Beall**, **Tom Jay** and **Jeanette Oliver** as **Emeritus Honorees** at a special celebration May 6 on the college campus. The three were awarded the unique and special honor for serving FVCC with distinction over a lengthy career.
- Flathead Valley Community College and Humanities Montana teamed up to present the **Montana Bison Summit** on February 23 and 24. Free and open to the public, the event featured presentations by leaders within Montana's Bison ranching, wildlife, conservation, activist and

tribal communities who addressed various issues concerning bison sustainability in Montana. The event featured multiple showings of the critically acclaimed, newly-released documentary “**Facing the Storm: The Story of the American Bison**” and a question-and-answer segment with the **award-winning filmmaker Doug Hawes-Davis**.

- FVCC hosted its fourth annual **College for a Day** March 2. **Approximately 800 area high school juniors** attended the day-long event that allowed them to experience a college classroom environment, meet college instructors and explore the diverse career options available in the workforce. Students participated in various activities that centered on the following nine career fields: arts and communication; business and management; health and related services; engineering and industrial technologies; occupational trades; outdoor science and education; professional health and science; social and human services; and theatre.
- Following two first place finishes at the **Lumberjack Classic** at the University of Idaho April 10 and the **Association of Western Forestry Clubs Conclave** at Cal Poly University where they outscored 12 competing teams March 23-25, Flathead Valley Community College’s Logger Sports Team came out on top at its annual home competition, **Stumpjumper Days**, April 16. Competing teams were comprised of 56 students from The University of Montana, University of Idaho, Colorado State University and FVCC.
- FVCC partnered with Kalispell Regional Medical Center to host the **HOSA State Leadership Conference** March 17-19. High school students competed in various subjects from biotechnology to dental terminology for a chance to qualify for the national competition in Anaheim, Calif. During the conference, students participated in educational symposiums centering on topics from diagnostic imagery to sports medicine. The conference was attended by 136 HOSA members and advisors from across Montana.
- FVCC hosted an open house of its **new welding trailer** in Libby March 9. Over 40 community members attended the event to learn about the new welding program at FVCC’s Lincoln County Campus and to tour the trailer. FVCC Director, Extended Learning **Pat Pezzelle** and President **Jane Karas** were joined by Lincoln County Commissioner **Tony Berget**, Executive Kootenai River Development Council Director **Paul Rumelhart**, Kootenai Job Service Manager **Johnette Watkins** and Stinger Welding General Manager **Steve Patrick** who spoke about the history of the program and the opportunities it will provide residents of Lincoln County.
- FVCC has received a **\$198,305 National Science Foundation grant** to initiate a **new biotechnology transfer degree**. Biology Instructors **Ruth Wrightsman** and **Jerry Manning** are leading the effort.
- English and Theatre Arts Instructor **Brian Bechtold** led a group of students during FVCC’s first **London spring break tour** March 24-31. Students earned up to six college credits while touring the city’s landmarks and historic sites. Bechtold serves on Shakespeare Oxford Society’s Board of Trustees based in Yorktown Heights, New York.

- Jewelry program students and instructors **Karen Chesna, Janet Fischer** and **Karen Kolar** traveled to Helena March 18 to meet with members of the Montana Legislature and share information about the jewelry program. During their visit, they presented commemorative coins designed by jewelry student **Justin Rubalcaba** and produced by FVCC jewelry students and faculty using the jewelry lab's newly acquired computer numerical control mill and equipment.
- FVCC Art Instructors **John Rawlings** and **Susan Guthrie** and Theatre Instructor **David Ackroyd** and a group of students ventured to **Venice, Italy**, this spring for the college's third **semester abroad program**. The program allows up to 22 college credits by participating in a program of study that encompasses language, cultural, art history, watercolor and theatre courses.
- The FVCC Multicultural Affairs Office hosted an **Arab Culture** event in March for members of the community. The five-part series consisted on an Arabic bazaar and presentations by Montanans who have first-hand knowledge of the Arab speaking world.
- FVCC welcomed **230 local third grade students** to its 10<sup>th</sup> annual **Seussville University**, a day-long celebration of Dr. Seuss that promotes literacy. Activities included art, music, math, storytelling and a theatre production. Approximately 40 FVCC students participated in the event through the Service Learning program which connects FVCC students with local community service projects.
- FVCC was awarded a **\$60,126 Acce\$\$ Grant** from the Student Assistance Foundation at the college's Board of Trustees meeting February 28. FVCC President Jane Karas accepted the check presented by Student Assistance Foundation Outreach Manager **Liz Foster**. The grant assists students whose unmet needs create barriers that prevent the students from continuing their education. Since the program's inception in 2000, the organization has awarded \$351,146 to FVCC.
- Flathead Valley Community College welcomed a **record number of students** to its **17<sup>th</sup> annual Senior Institute** this spring. The program enrolled **more than 260 senior citizens** 62 years of age and older and involved a series of 14 credit classes with subjects ranging from ceramics, the Civil War and beginning yoga to gardening, computers and line dancing.
- FVCC welcomed **73 new Phi Theta Kappa members** into its Alpha Iota Pi Chapter during the international honor society's spring induction ceremony March 15. Each student obtained at least 12 credit hours from FVCC while earning a minimum grade point average of 3.0.
- FVCC welcomed **Flathead High School** and **Glacier High School** students on campus February 3 for an "**Evening of Fine Arts**" gala. The community fundraiser organized by the Kalispell Education Foundation involved the students showcasing their works of art and talents from musical numbers to theatre performances. **FVCC's culinary arts students** prepared and served appetizers and desserts to event patrons. Proceeds from the event will benefit students at Kalispell Public Schools and the Flathead Valley Community College Art Department.

- Through a U.S. Department of Labor **Strengthening the Indigenous Nursing and Emergency Workforce Community Based Job Training Grant**, FVCC received **two MetiMan high-fidelity simulators**. The cutting-edge patient simulators are mannequins equipped with human characteristics and responses providing students new opportunities to develop critical thinking skills and apply the information they learn in their classes through realistic patient situations.
- FVCC celebrated **National TRIO Day** March 3. The event recognized local and national TRIO programs and featured awards, an opportunity to meet the FVCC TRIO staff and information on the various TRIO programs and applying for federal grant assistance and FVCC scholarships.
- FVCC hosted the seventh annual **College Goal Montana**, a program that provides students who want to attend college and their families the opportunity to obtain assistance in applying for financial aid. FVCC's Financial Aid staff assisted 99 individuals in completing Free Applications for Federal Student Aid on February 9 and 13.
- Flathead Valley Community College Theatre concluded its spring season with one of Broadway's most challenging productions, *Evita*. Directed by FVCC student **Joshua Kelly**, *Evita* was comprised of a cast of nearly 40, a massive 10-foot steel structure representing the balcony of the Casa Rosada and brand new state-of-the-art LED theatrical lights.
- The Flathead Valley Community College Multicultural Affairs Office presented a **one-man hand-drum competition** on the college campus March 12. The event featured one-man hand-drum singers, a film screening of the critically-acclaimed recently-released documentary "Facing the Storm: The Story of the American Bison" and Native American arts and crafts and food vendors.
- FVCC welcomed two visiting artists who presented free lectures for the community in April. **Clark Derbes**, of Vermont, is the creator of publicartschool.com, a Web site that features online art demonstrations and tutorials as a means of teaching art beyond the classroom. Gallatin Valley sculptor **Gary Bates** of Manhattan, Mont., is the creator of massive sculptures including "Rain Scale", an interactive kinetic sculpture installed outside of the Technology Center at Green River Community College in Auburn, Wash., and "Wind Arc," installed in front of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Building at Montana State University.
- FVCC instructor and archaeologist **Dr. E.B. Eiselein** presented two free lectures for FVCC students and the community this spring as part of his **Armchair Archaeology Series**. Topics centered on the Ancient Megaliths of the British Isles and the Harappan Civilization of Pakistan.
- Members of FVCC Campus Corps joined FVCC students and community members April 8 and 9 to construct a shed to be raffled as a fundraiser for Flathead Valley Habitat for Humanity. This is the second year volunteers gathered for **Habitat for Humanity Shed Building Day**, an effort involving the construction of one 8'X12' shed to be raffled off with proceeds benefiting the community-based organization that seeks to provide affordable housing for low-income Flathead Valley residents who are currently living in substandard housing.

- The FVCC Renewable Resources Club hosted an **Earth Day Celebration** April 22. Activities included an Earth Day Art Contest featuring art comprised of recyclable materials by local area grade school children; interactive stations providing information ranging from water quality to the economics of recycling; an informative cardboard maze, a cornstarch toxic waste pond and a mini-miniature golf course; and information and products of various local businesses that practice green services.
- The FVCC Early Childhood Center celebrated **Week of the Young Child** April 11-17. Children who attend the center were invited to participate in hand-holding ceremony at Woodland Park April 17. Art work by the center's infants, toddlers and preschoolers was on display during the week at the Kalispell Center Mall and the Hutton Ranch Plaza McDonald's.