

Memorandum

To: Board of Regents

From: Jane Karas, President
Flathead Valley Community College

Re: September 2013 Campus Report

Date: August 23, 2013

- FVCC graduated its 45th class May 17 during the college's **spring 2013 commencement**. The college recognized **401 graduates** for completing **445 degrees and certificates** during the 2012-2013 academic year. FVCC Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence **Karl Rangikawhiti Leonard** of Ngongotahā, Rotoru, New Zealand, served as commencement speaker.
- FVCC's **paramedicine program** has been awarded **initial accreditation** by the **Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs**. Paramedicine Program Director **Kris Long** was recently recognized by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Board of Directors for **achieving 20 consecutive years as a nationally registered emergency medical technician**. By maintaining her registered status and completing regular continuing education courses, Long is among the few elite EMTs with the most training in pre-hospital emergency medical care in the nation.
- **Montana Governor Steve Bullock** hosted his sixth and final **Main Street Montana Project** economic roundtable discussion on the college campus July 8. Approximately 120 leaders in business, labor, education and economic development gathered together to identify strengths and challenges that Montana businesses face and to brainstorm ways to overcome the challenges.
- The Flathead Valley Community College Foundation introduced a new **\$10,000 Transformation Scholarship** for the 2013-2014 academic year. The scholarship was established to transform the life of a student with great financial need by helping the student achieve his or her educational and career goals. The scholarship will cover one student's tuition and fees and assist with living expenses for an entire academic year.
- FVCC invited **student veterans** to an open house of the college's new **Veteran's Center** August 21. The center opened this fall and will serve as a place for FVCC students who are veterans or members of our armed forces to study, take breaks, access resources specific to their needs and bond with fellow veterans. Among the guests of the open house was **U.S. Representative Steve Daines**.

- FVCC graduated its first class of **physical therapist assistant students** during a special pinning ceremony August 3. **Twelve graduates** were recognized for completing the two-year Associate of Applied Science degree program.
- FVCC honored its most recent nursing graduates during two traditional pinning ceremonies this summer. On May 17, **21 practical nursing graduates** were recognized for successfully completing the two-year Associate of Applied Science degree program. On August 15, the college honored **nine registered nursing graduates** for successfully completing their Associate of Nursing degrees.
- The FVCC Board of Trustees, FVCC President Jane Karas and the college faculty recognized FVCC's newest **Emeritus Honorees Faith Hodges**, retired executive director of enrollment planning and Title III, and **Dr. David Scott**, retired philosophy, education and religion instructor, at a special celebration May 10 on the college campus. Hodges and Scott were presented the unique and special honor for serving FVCC with distinction over a lengthy career.
- FVCC President Dr. Jane Karas presented two prestigious awards at the 18th annual President's Donor Dinner. **The Mercords**, a family of longtime supporters of FVCC, were honored with the college's prestigious **Eagle Award** for the 2012-2013 academic year. They were recognized for making FVCC a family tradition throughout the college's 46-year history and for setting an example of passing leadership and service from one generation to the next. Also, **Dr. Van Kirke and Helen Nelson** were honored with President Karas's eighth annual **Montana Mentor Award** for using their gifts of vision, leadership and passion to make a difference in the community.
- FVCC biology student **Ruth Rickenbacher** was named a **2013 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow**. The national award recognizes inspiring college student leaders who have worked to find solutions for challenges facing their communities and who demonstrate a personal commitment to creating lasting change to better their communities while making the most of their college experiences. Rickenbacher was among 181 student leaders across the nation honored with the award.
- FVCC hosted the nation's first **Ceramics Festiva** May 22-25. The event was inspired by the visions of FVCC ceramics instructors **David Smith** and **Stephen Braun** and involved 17 ceramics artists from across Montana and the nation coming together to teach workshops and showcase alternative firing techniques to local artists and interested community members.
- The FVCC Art Department raised a record **\$20,000** at its third annual **Big Night** fundraiser, an event to raise funds for student scholarships for its 2014 Semester in Venice program. The gala was comprised of an Italian-inspired dinner created by **students of The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC** and **Chef Howard Karp**, an Italian-themed live auction, an art exhibit and testimonials of students who have participated in the program.

- **Approximately 100 FVCC students** presented research projects during the college's fourth annual spring **Scholars Conference on Student Research**. The event provided participating students the opportunity to present their research, portfolios and projects to members of the community. Approximately 20 student presentations were delivered and nearly 80 research posters were showcased during the event. The event opened with remarks from **Dr. James McKusick**, dean of the Davidson Honors College at The University of Montana; **Dr. Tommy Donovan**, assistant director of the University Honors Program at Montana State University; **Dr. Ivan Lorentzen**, director of The Scholars Program at FVCC; and scholar students **Tyler Rasmussen, Seth Donahue and JonAlan Osborne**.
- FVCC President Jane Karas hosted her twelfth annual **Community Conversations** in June. President Karas traveled to seven communities from Eureka to Lakeside and met with **over 100 community members, school officials and legislators**, providing guests with updates on the college and collecting feedback on how the college can better serve the communities of Northwest Montana.
- The FVCC Foundation hosted **541 guests** at the spring and summer tours of the **Bibler Home and Gardens** in May and July, generating **\$7,681** to fund the FVCC student scholarship program. The spring tours opened with a **Mother's Day champagne brunch**, and the summer tours kicked off with a wine reception with light hors d'oeuvres, both prepared by **students of The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC**.
- FVCC welcomed Napa Valley Winery **Chef Dominic Orsini** from the Silver Oak Cellars for a special **Festival of Flavors kick-off Chef's Table dinner** on July 9. The dinner, which served as a precursor to the college's Festival of Flavors in September, featured a five-course dinner with wine pairings from Silver Oak Cellars and Twomey Cellars of Napa Valley, Calif. Students of The Culinary Institute of Montana assisted Chef Orsini with food preparation, plating and service.
- The **Flathead Valley Community College Alumni & Ambassadors (A & A)** hosted its **first annual summer social** August 5. The 18-member A & A Council, comprised of alumni, former students, staff and friends of FVCC, was formed last November to promote opportunities for alumni and friends to stay connected with FVCC through communications, programs and services that foster a lifetime relationship with the college. The council is chaired by alumnus **Ryan Mitchell** and FVCC Foundation Board member **Suzy Williams**.
- The **FVCC building trades program** will partner with **Habitat for Humanity of Flathead Valley** this fall to **construct a new town home** at the Habitat for Humanity build site in Columbia Falls. Now in its eighteenth year, the building trades program is designed to prepare students for entry-level positions within the building trades field.
- FVCC captured its eighth consecutive first place title for its float entry in the **2013 Northwest Montana Fair Parade**. FVCC students, alumni and employees constructed the float and participated in the parade.

- FVCC teamed up with the **Flathead Community Foundation** to present a free screening of the award-winning feature documentary *Awaken the Dragon* for the community June 18. The event raised awareness of the history of dragon boat races and the sport's tie to cancer survivors in preparation for the second annual **Montana Dragon Boat Festival** slated for September 7 and 8 at Flathead Lake Lodge in Bigfork.
- FVCC hosted **Montana Shakespeare in the Parks'** production of *Henry V* August 20. FVCC was one of 60 venues throughout Montana, northern Wyoming, eastern Idaho, eastern Washington and western North Dakota that hosted the outreach program through Montana State University's College of Arts and Architecture.
- FVCC **Kid's College** returned for two weeks June 17. The program offered 30 week-long, half-day classes for kids of all interests, abilities and grade levels. **Grandparents College** returned for its second year, featuring two day-long classes that provided an opportunity for grandparents to participate in hands-on learning activities with their grandchildren or other young relatives.
- FVCC held a graduation ceremony for its **GED graduates** on June 13. **Nearly 175 graduates** were recognized for completing GED requirements for the 2012-2013 academic year. The prior evening, FVCC's **Lincoln County Campus** held a ceremony and honored 21 **GED graduates**.