

## Memorandum

**To:** Board of Regents

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

**Re:** March 2014 Campus Report

**Date:** February 7, 2014

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- Flathead Valley Community College accepted a **27-acre donation of land** valued at **\$420,000** from a Bigfork resident. The property was given to the college anonymously to be used for educational purposes, including instruction, research and activities consistent with FVCC's mission. The property, which borders Montana State Trust Land and is close to the Jewel Basin Hiking Area, has diverse vegetation, topography and geology as well as historical and cultural significance. The property will provide new opportunities for students in natural resources, physical and biological sciences and art and will offer an exciting, new venue for students of all ages in FVCC's continuing education classes and programs.
- FVCC President Karas attended the **Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses launch** in Detroit November 25 and 26. The job growth initiative **aims to help create jobs and boost economic growth** through the loans as well as business support and entrepreneurship education provided by local colleges and universities.
- FVCC executed a full roll-out of its new **Foundational Math Program** in the fall following a successful pilot program last year. Funded through an **Amplifying Montana's Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Industry grant**, the program's goal is to **address the 80 students placing into developmental math** at FVCC by improving student success, increasing student retention, making completion of courses more efficient and providing support to alleviate "mathphobias" among students. Under the leadership of **Laura VanDeKop**, associate professor of math, and **Lisa Angle**, assistant professor of developmental math, the program funded the establishment of the college's first **Foundational Math Center** equipped with 61 computer workstations and developmental math software that allow each student to move at his or her own pace. After assessing the preliminary data, the findings of the impact of the new program on the student success rate are positive.
- The **physical therapist assistant program** received the maximum **five-year accreditation** through the **Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education**. The program is led by Assistant Professor/Program Director **Janice Heil** with the support of Assistant Professor **Julie Robertson**.
- FVCC has received **five-year approval** from the **Montana Board of Nursing** for the college's **practical nursing and registered nursing associate degree programs**. FVCC has a **95**

**percent average pass rate** among first-time license exam takers in both the PN and RN programs, with the most recent program graduates achieving a **100 percent pass rate**.

- The FVCC Foundation's **Festival of Flavors 2013** fundraising event was a tremendous success, raising **record net proceeds of more than \$149,000** for student scholarships and programs at FVCC. The 10-day festival, comprised of 11 events, highlighted seven 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.
- In response to a need from several area long-term care and other health facilities to fill positions for nursing assistants, practical nurses and other employees, FVCC hosted a **nursing and health science career fair** November 20. The fair offered individuals considering careers in health care an opportunity to explore types of employment opportunities available in the area while networking with several area health care agencies about current openings.
- FVCC hosted its first **Career Classes Week** to help prepare students for successful entry into the workforce. The week kicked off with **student/employer roundtable discussions** to provide students the opportunity to hear directly from local employers which skills and personal attributes they are looking for in potential employees. The week continued with a series of free workshops from completing online applications and writing resumes to preparing for interviews.
- FVCC's Entrepreneurship Center and Flathead High School's International Baccalaureate Programme hosted the **Best of TED Festival** November 19-21 on the college campus. The free community event featured three nights of exceptional TED Talks accompanied by commentary and discussions with panels of local community leaders. **Ivan Lorentzen**, Ed.D., psychology professor at FVCC, and **Sue Brown**, veteran teacher at Flathead High School, served as masters of ceremony. In addition to viewing the featured TED Talks, attendees were given the opportunity to exchange ideas with others in small group discussions and engage with expert panelists about the ideas presented in the talks. On January 16, FVCC hosted a live stream of **TEDx Whitefish**. Themed "**Defining the Last Best Place**," the event featured speakers from across Montana who shared their original insights to help point the Flathead Valley down a path toward responsible economic development, resource conservation and inclusive citizenship.
- The FVCC Foundation held its **20th annual Scholarship Award Luncheon** to honor scholarship donors and student scholarship recipients for the 2013-2014 academic year. The luncheon welcomed a crowd of **260 guests** and provided an opportunity for private scholarship donors to meet the student scholarship recipients. Donors were acknowledged for contributing **\$378,263** in FVCC and community-supported scholarships helping **266 students** attend college. Student scholarship recipients **Jesse Bailey, Hannah Brinton, Christian Stratton, and Andrea "Sam" Roslie** addressed guests with their personal stories and the positive impact the scholarships have made on their lives.
- FVCC welcomed the **Montana Organic Association** onto campus for the organization's **11<sup>th</sup> annual conference** December 12-14, marking the **first time the statewide conference was held in Northwest Montana**. The college served as a sponsor of the conference which featured presenters comprised of FVCC Agriculture Program Director **Heather Estrada**, Ph.D., and Campus Farm Manager **Julian Cunningham** along with scientists and organic growers from across the state. The conference was attended by approximately 145 Montana agricultural stakeholders and featured organic and local ingredients prepared by FVCC Catering with the assistance of students from The Culinary Institute of Montana.

- **Gregg Davis**, Ph.D., associate professor of economics provided input to a reporter for The New York Times for an article on state and federally run health exchanges. Davis is currently analyzing data on the “**Journey to Wellness Program**” at The Summit/Kalispell Regional Healthcare and is entering into a partnership between the Center for Business and Economic Research, FVCC and Data Smart Solutions in Helena to work collaboratively on mining health claims data from various employer groups to identify potential cost-saving strategies.
  - FVCC welcomed area business and community professionals onto campus for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual **Flathead Valley Economic Forecast Breakfast** hosted by Montana West Economic Development. FVCC Executive Director, Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning **Brad Eldredge**, Ph.D., led a Flathead Economy question and answer symposium highlighting the change in employment in Flathead industries, areas of growth and the economic outlook for 2014.
  - FVCC students **Laurel Sugden** and **Audrey Jones** presented their research at the **Montana section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) fall meeting** at Fairmont Hot Springs. Sugden presented her research results regarding a solid state zinc air fuel cell, and Jones presented her project designed to measure septic contamination of Whitefish Lake waters using chloride analysis. Assistant Professor, Chemistry **Adam Wenz** serves as the treasurer of the ACS Montana Section.
  - FVCC Art Instructors **John Rawlings** and **Susan Guthrie** and Theatre Instructor **David Ackroyd** and a group of students ventured to **Venice, Italy**, January 19 for the college’s sixth **semester abroad program**. The program allows students to earn up to 22 college credits by participating in a program of study that encompasses language, art, Italian culture and theatre courses.
  - Nearly 100 FVCC students presented their research projects during the college’s **Fall Scholars Conference on Student Research** on December 6. The event provided participating students the opportunity to present their research, portfolios and projects to college faculty, staff and students and members of the community. Students delivered over 20 oral presentations, and more than 50 research posters were showcased during the event.
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- FVCC has welcomed **John Balsam** as the **new director of the Northwest Montana Small Business Development Center (SBDC)**. Balsam, who holds a master’s degree in business administration from The University of Montana, has spent the last 25 years as a consultant for a variety of companies in Montana and the United States. On January 28, FVCC and the Northwest SBDC welcomed local manufacturing companies onto campus for an **informational presentation on state and federal funding opportunities** available for research and development activities.
  - **The Culinary Institute of Montana’s Chef’s Table** returned for its twelfth season this spring. The program enables students to complete their first-year culinary arts internships while showcasing their skills and talents to community members and visitors to the valley. The highlight of the season will be the special presentation, “**Casablanca – The Dinner**” April 12. This black tie or period attire affair will take patrons back to 1942 as they enjoy a five-course French and Moroccan-themed dinner and wine to the sounds of early jazz and swing. Proceeds from the dinner will support scholarships and programs at FVCC.

- Flathead Valley residents had the rare opportunity to enjoy a free performance by **Thailand's Moradokmai Theatre Community**. Founder **Chang Janaprakal Chandruang**, a Flathead Valley Community College alumnus, and members of the theatre ensemble brought their version of "**Ramakien**" to the Flathead Valley Community College Theatre stage December 2. FVCC was one of two stops in Montana for the community's 2013 U.S. tour. FVCC Theatre concluded its fall season with its production of Craig Lucas's Christmas comedy, "**Reckless**."
- On November 5, FVCC's Multicultural Affairs Office hosted free **Cultural Day** events for the community in celebration of cultures and diversities across the globe. Activities included stations representing various nations where travelers could collect stamps for mock passports, a presentation by FVCC students and students visiting from Brazil who participated in this year's **U.S.-Brazil Connect program** and a lecture by Dr. Paulo Zagalo-Melo, director of the Office of International Programs at The University of Montana. In February, the Multicultural Affairs Office teamed up with the **HeartLines Project** to host a free two-day **Salish and Kootenai film series** for the community.
- FVCC welcomed its newest **Phi Theta Kappa** members during the fall induction ceremony October 21. **Thirty-one FVCC students were inducted** into the Alpha Iota Pi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa by President LaDawna Clawson.
- FVCC hosted the **Humanities Montana Speakers Bureau** program, "**The Changing Image of American Indians in Film**," with writer and lecturer **Richard Ellis** January 30. The community was invited to hear Ellis explore how Hollywood's portrayal of American Indians influences public opinion and how movies reflect changing public attitudes toward Native Americans.