

Memorandum

To: Board of Regents

From: Jane Karas, President
Flathead Valley Community College

Re: November 2014 Campus Report

Date: October 24, 2014

- FVCC welcomed U.S. Senator **Jon Tester** to **dedicate the college's Veterans' Center** October 8. The center opened last fall to provide FVCC student veterans and members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families with resources and assistance regarding VA benefits, college-related issues and civilian matters. During the ceremony, FVCC student veterans **Eric Hill** and **Theresa Williamson** shared their personal stories and the positive impact the Veteran's Center has had on their lives and their educational success. The event culminated with Senator Tester cutting the ribbon to dedicate the facility. The Veterans' Center was funded by a \$30,000 grant from the Montana Office of Commissioner of Higher Education.
- FVCC hosted Northwest Montana's first **Startup Weekend Glacier Country** September 19-21. The 54-hour event was open to entrepreneurial individuals interested in launching new businesses over the course of the weekend. More than 50 local developers, designers, marketers, startup enthusiasts and others received startup-coaching and mentoring from more than 16 highly successful entrepreneurs and business owners. **U.S. Senator Jon Tester** met with Startup Weekend Glacier Country winners during a breakfast he hosted on the FVCC campus October 8.
- FVCC welcomed Montana Lieutenant Governor **Angela McLean** and Commissioner of Higher Education **Clay Christian** to FVCC September 3 during a Running Start and dual enrollment tour stop in Northwest Montana. FVCC Running Start student **Clinton Kunhardt** and alumni **Kiera Roberson** shared their personal stories and the impact Running Start has had on their educational success.
- FVCC welcomed Dr. **Jen Lara**, professor of teacher education at Anne Arundel Community College in Annapolis, Maryland, who presented a **keynote address on student engagement and collaboration** at the college's campus-wide **fall In-service**. Lara, who serves on the 21st Century of Community Commission on the Future of Community Colleges, also presented an address on the **importance of shifting mindsets in the classroom** to faculty.
- The FVCC Foundation's seventh annual **Festival of Flavors** signature fundraising event was a tremendous success. The nine-day festival, comprised of 10 events, highlighted eight of the **Flathead Valley's finest chefs** including **students of The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC** and Executive Chef **Howard Karp** and culminated with a grand wine tasting event. The

festival opened with “Campus Uncorked,” featuring regional wines and brews paired with tastings from the event’s first-ever competitive cook-off between the culinary arts students.

- FVCC President Jane Karas hosted a **legislative breakfast** September 29. President Karas presented the attending area legislators and candidates a college update and an overview of current college issues and addressed questions from the guests.
- This fall, FVCC’s STEM fields launched a **weekly STEM colloquium** comprised of an informal setting where various STEM academic projects, involving students conducting **undergraduate research** in physics, math, chemistry and biology, are presented and discussed. Members of the campus and greater communities are invited to hear the weekly research presentations by participating faculty, students and visitors.
- FVCC Physics Associate Professor **Jim Boger** was one of the participants involved in a successful **\$750,000 NASA Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research grant** composed by members of the Montana State University Electrical Engineering Department. As a result of the grant, FVCC students will construct two different imaging polarimeters to take various schools across the state as an outreach effort. Boger’s involvement will allow FVCC students to participate in the Microlithography Engineering Labs at MSU as paid summer interns. In addition, the grant will fund the purchase of optical equipment for FVCC, allowing the college to establish its first-ever Optics Lab.
- FVCC invited the community to **explore careers in health care** at the college’s first **Night at The Broussard Center** October 16. Hosted by the FVCC nursing and health science programs, the event was open to anyone interested in learning more about health care careers. The event featured short one-act vignettes performed by students showcasing health care careers in action, booths and presentations providing information about the college’s various health care fields of study and representatives from the college’s financial aid and admissions offices.
- FVCC hosted two free **Community College Citizen Preparedness Training workshops** for the campus and area communities in honor of National Preparedness Month. Presented by FVCC Campus Emergency Coordinator **Kris Long**, the training provided a step-by-step approach to learning about local emergency plans, identifying hazards that affect the local area and developing a disaster plan and supplies kit, among other related topics. Sponsored by the FVCC Service Learning program, the workshops were supported by a **9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance grant** from the Corporation for National and Community Service and Montana Campus Compact.
- This fall, **The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC** launched a new capstone **student-run restaurant course**, giving students the opportunity to plan, open and operate their own restaurants. Two groups of second-year culinary arts students took turns operating their restaurants for the public for three weeks inside the program’s instructional kitchen. Created by FVCC Executive Chef **Howard Karp**, the course was designed to provide a practical approach to planning, organizing and managing a restaurant.
- FVCC was among the organizations that participated in **Flathead Manufacturing Day** presented by the **Kalispell Chamber of Commerce** on October 3. Guests were invited to tour

the college's Occupational Trades Building and learn about the college's advanced manufacturing programs.

- **The Scholars Program at FVCC** welcomed **18 new students** to the program this fall. Under the leadership of new Scholars Program director **Christina Relyea, Ph.D.**, the program provides highly-motivated students the opportunity to study honors-level cross-disciplinary courses, while preparing the students for a seamless transition into either the Davidson Honors College at The University of Montana or the University Honors College at Montana State University. An articulation agreement was signed this year between The Scholars Program at FVCC and the Davidson Honors College at The University of Montana, and The Scholars Program at FVCC is currently working on an articulation agreement with the University Honors College at Montana State University. The Scholars Program at Flathead Valley Community College is changing its name to The Honors Program at Flathead Valley Community College, effective January 2015.
- Flathead Valley Community College hosted its first annual **Red, White and Blue Run** to honor September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance and to pay tribute of local first responders. FVCC students, alumni, employees, families and other members of the college community participated in the non-timed 3K fun run/walk and were doused with non-toxic red and blue-colored cornstarch powder throughout the course. Sponsored by the FVCC Service Learning and Intramurals programs, the event raised **\$700** to benefit **Montana Wounded Warriors**.
- FVCC's **natural resources conservation and management program** hosted the college's second annual **Geocache Adventure** October 18. More than 110 participants, ranging from novice to experts, ventured on one of two courses designed and tested by the college's natural resources students. The goal of the event was to involve the community in developing and enhancing navigational tools skills while providing fun for the whole family and outdoor enthusiasts alike.
- To educate the campus community on what to do in the event of an earthquake, FVCC participated in the **2014 Great Montana Shake Out** on October 22 at 10:22 a.m. During the campus-wide earthquake drill, FVCC students, faculty and staff were asked to duck under nearby furniture and hold on for one minute. Members of the campus community who were off campus during the drill also were encouraged to participate.
- **FVCC Art Department faculty and students** participated in Bigfork's first **Chalk 'n Rock Art Festival** September 20 and 21. FVCC's artists were among numerous local participating artists challenged with filling a 10-foot square with original street artwork rendered in chalk.
- During the past year, FVCC has worked with the state to provide a **First Class Boiler Operator Licensing Preparation Course** that will create new job opportunities for boiler engineers currently holding second and third-class licenses. The most recent First Class Boiler Operator Licensing Preparation Course took place in Sidney at Montana Dakota Utilities November 3-21.
- The Flathead Valley Community College Alumni and Ambassadors Association hosted its second annual **FVCC Alumni and Friends Social** October 16 at The Rack Shack in Somers. The event featured food and microbrews from Tamarack Brewing Company, live music by blues

artist Kevin Van Dort and a 50/50 raffle to support the FVCC Alumni and Ambassadors student scholarship fund. Guests were invited to have their photos taken with FVCC's mascot, Timber.

- The **Kalispell branch of American Association of University Women** partnered with FVCC to host a free screening of the 2013 film “**Inequality for All**” for the community on the college campus. Following the film, a panel of local economic professionals addressed the implications of the country's widening wealth gap on Northwest Montana's economy. **Gregg Davis, Ph.D.**, FVCC professor of economics, **Brad Eldredge, Ph.D.**, FVCC executive director of institutional research, assessment and planning, and **Kim Morisaki**, who oversees special projects and business development at Montana West Economic Development, discussed the film and fielded questions from the audience.
- FVCC welcomed Searcy, Arkansas-based vintage rock n' roll band **Dave Bennett and The Memphis Speed Kings** onto campus October 2 for a public concert to raise funds for **FVCC music scholarships**. The show opened with performances by **Whitefish High School's Blue Avenue**.
- FVCC hosted a **cake walk** booth for **Family Fun Night**, a carnival fundraiser to benefit the local **Ronald McDonald Room** at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. The cake walk featured handmade cakes designed and prepared by **The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC**. The college took home the **grand prize trophy for best booth** at the event.
- FVCC partnered with area clubs of **Rotary International** to welcome **Rotarian Joe Pratt**, of Nottingham, England, to present his “**Mount Everest Climb to End Polio**” story to the community October 17. Using music, photos and videos from his trip, Pratt shared the story of his climb on the highest mountain from the north side in 2012 with the goal of permanently eradicating polio across the globe.
- Flathead Valley Community College Theatre opened its fall season by welcoming Missoula theatre company **Bear Bait Dance** for a free community performance of “**Wall City News.**” FVCC Theatre continued its season with a production of “**Shakespeare Makes a Scene,**” an original show written and performed by Columbia Falls artists **Jeremias Johnson and Sally McBride**, and its very own production of “**Fifth of July.**”
- A group of nearly 30 FVCC employees, students and faculty came together to participate in the **ALS Ice Bucket Challenge**. FVCC also participated in the third annual **Montana Dragon Boat Festival** in Bigfork. The college's team, the **FVCC Eagles**, was comprised of **FVCC faculty, staff, students, alumni and family members**.