

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 27, 2015

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Jane Karas, Ph.D.
President, Flathead Valley Community College

RE: Campus Report for the July, 2015 Board of Regents' Meeting

- FVCC biology student **Nick Glynos** was selected for a **research assistantship** this summer at **Rutgers University** in New Jersey. In addition, he will travel to **Edmonton, British Columbia**, to present his original research on the medicinal properties of mushrooms he completed at FVCC this past year. Glynos, a former “ski bum” and truck driver, was selected as the FVCC Foundation’s **\$10,000 Transformation Scholarship** recipient for the 2015-16 academic year. The FVCC Foundation also awarded two **\$5,000 Transformation Scholarships** for the 2015-16 academic year to business administration student **Roseanna Stanfield** and biotechnology student **Kim Lantrip**.
- FVCC aerospace engineering student **William Pardis** was selected to travel to NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston to participate in the **NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars project**. Pardis and his team took first place in the rover design competition. Pardis was among 240 community college students from across the nation chosen to participate in the project.
- FVCC graduated its **47th class** May 15 during the college’s **2015 commencement**. The college recognized **404 graduates** for completing **457 degrees and certificates** during the 2014-2015 academic year. FVCC alumnus and Google[x] Systems Engineer **Andrew Crawford** served as commencement speaker.
- FVCC President Jane Karas, Ph.D., hosted her annual President’s Dinner May 14. There, she presented the college’s prestigious **Eagle Award** to two deserving individuals: **Suzy Williams**, FVCC Foundation Board member and FVCC Ambassadors founding chair, donor and advocate, and the late **Ralene Sliter**, dedicated college Trustee, FVCC Foundation Board member and donor.
- This summer, FVCC launched **Teacher Camp**, offering K-12 educators a new and affordable opportunity to earn up to four college credits. Designed with input from local educators, the program presented teachers the opportunity to learn new teaching strategies and to network with peers from across Montana.
- The **FVCC biology and natural resources departments** hosted the college’s first **BioBlitz**. Faculty and students partnered with community members to identify as many plants, birds, amphibians, insects, fish, mammals, fungi and other species as possible in a given time period in an effort to survey the biological diversity of the 216-acre college campus.

- FVCC English Professor **Lowell Jaeger** published his sixth full-length collection of original poems titled “**Driving the Back Road Home.**” Jaeger’s simple approach focused on the theme of writing about day-to-day ordinary things and making them extraordinary. Jaeger is founding editor of Many Voices Press housed on the FVCC campus. In addition to winning the 2011 Montana Governor’s Humanities Award, he is a recipient of the Grolier Poetry Peace Prize and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Montana Arts Council.
- FVCC honored its eighth class of **practical nursing graduates** during a **traditional pinning ceremony** at the college May 15. Twenty graduates received their practical nursing pins for successfully completing the two-year Associate of Applied Science degree program.
- FVCC’s **Summer Gunsmithing** program returned for its fourth season, offering three weeks of courses that promote the culture of Northwest Montana’s craftsmanship and sportsmanship. The National Rifle Association-approved program is one of five short-term gunsmithing programs offered in the United States. The program served students from the local area as well as from across Montana and the nation.
- FVCC President Jane Karas hosted her fourteenth annual **Community Conversations** this summer. President Karas traveled to seven communities from Eureka to Somers and met with **community members, business leaders, school officials** and **elected officials**, providing guests with a college update and collecting feedback on how the college can better serve the communities of Northwest Montana.
- FVCC presented its first **Student Leadership Awards Brunch** to honor students in leadership roles at the college and those who completed leadership training at FVCC. The college welcomed alumnus **Jesse Mahugh**, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flathead County, as keynote speaker.