

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 11, 2015

TO: Board of Regents

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

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

- FVCC was one of three U.S. community colleges that took home a **2015 Community College Bellwether Award** at the annual Community College Futures Assembly in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. FVCC won the award in the Planning, Governance and Finance category, which recognizes programs or activities that have been designed and successfully implemented to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the community college. FVCC's project, "**Using Financial Aid Data and Fundraising Strategies to Improve Access, Persistence and Completion through Scholarships,**" was presented by college Executive Director, Institutional Advancement **Colleen Unterreiner** and Executive Director, Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning **Brad Eldredge**, Ph.D. The project involved the FVCC Foundation collaborating with the college's financial aid and institutional research offices to examine the relationship of scholarships financed with FVCC Foundation event proceeds to persistence and completion. Study outcomes motivated the Foundation to improve marketing of the scholarship program, increase revenues for scholarships and transform its scholarship program to better impact student success.
- FVCC welcomed **nine of Brazil's top math and science high school students** for a **week-long visit to Northwest Montana** as a continuation of the **US-Brazil Connect** program. Last summer, 11 FVCC students traveled to Contagem, Brazil, to coach English as a part of US-Brazil Connect's Conexão Mundo program. The top performing Brazilian students from the program spent the week exploring Glacier National Park and visiting the FVCC campus, meeting with career counselors, performing hands-on activities with cutting-edge technologies and shadowing students. They concluded their visit by presenting a community program on US-Brazil Connect with their FVCC coaches.
- FVCC offered its first **field botany study abroad program** in **Costa Rica** January 5-17. Seventeen students ranging in ages from 18 to 68 spent nearly two weeks exploring the Cloud Forest region of Monteverde and the Rain Forest region of the Osa Peninsula while residing in biological stations. Plant Biology Assistant Professor **Mirabai McCarthy**, Ph.D., led the program.
- Flathead Valley Community College honored its fourth class of **registered nursing (RN) graduates** during a traditional pinning ceremony December 18. **Katherine Hilleboe-McGee, Kelsey Lyford, Lexie McFarland, Vicki Moss, Betsy Nelson, Kelly Pike** and **Janette Thomason** received their registered nursing pins in recognition of completing the program.

- FVCC honored **10 graduates** of **The Culinary Institute of Montana** at FVCC during a special ceremony December 8. **Taylor Baer, Kelsey Cofer, Zoe Gaiser, Alex Hanson, Jonathon Hartig, Cody Hegstrum, Caille Moles, Joseph O’Hagan, Rebecca Tomas** and **Terry Van Tine** were recognized for completing the 18-month program.
- Five FVCC students were named spring 2015 recipients of the **Whitefish Credit Union Community Pride Scholarship**. **Cindy Berger, Sara Gomes, Karina Ek, Kelly Swenson** and **Rebekah Venable** received scholarships totaling \$1,600 for the spring 2015 semester at FVCC.
- FVCC hosted a **Celtic Gathering**, providing members of the local community an opportunity to celebrate Celtic culture and learn about a heritage that resides in the Flathead Valley. The event featured live performances by **Montana Highlanders Bagpipe Band, Celtic Spirit Singers** and **Kalispell Irish Dancers**. The free event was sponsored by FVCC Global Friends, Celtic Spirit Singers, Montana Highlanders, Flathead Celtic Festival, Montana Gaelic Cultural Society, Kalispell Irish Dancers and FVCC Student Engagement.
- FVCC hosted the **Humanities Montana Speakers Bureau** program, “**Jeannette Rankin: America’s Conscience**,” presented by **Mary Jane Bradbury** on February 9. Bradbury shared Jeannette Rankin’s journey from grassroots suffragist to being the first female to serve in United State government.
- FVCC welcomed husband-and-wife visiting **Taiwanese musicians Fang-Liu and Jessica Chen** who presented two master string classes and a free concert for the community in February. The concert was the opening of a four-part Spring Concert Series presented by FVCC music faculty.