

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 15, 2016

**TO:** Board of Regents

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

**RE:** Campus Report for the July 18-19, 2016 Board of Regents' Meeting

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- FVCC graduated its **48<sup>th</sup> class** on May 20 with a commencement ceremony at the Flathead County Fairgrounds. More than **370 students** were recognized for completing graduation requirements during the 2015-2016 academic year. **Mick Blodnick**, CEO of Glacier Bancorp, and **Dr. Ivan Lorentzen**, FVCC faculty member, addressed the new graduates. President Karas presented Blodnick with the Montana Mentor Award in honor of his contributions to higher education at the local and state levels.
- FVCC honored its latest class of **Practical Nursing** program graduates during a traditional pinning ceremony on May 20. Eighteen students successfully completed the two-year AAS degree program.
- **Bob Nystuen**, President of Glacier Bank and member of the Board of Regents, was honored with FVCC's 2016 **Eagle Award** during the 21<sup>st</sup> annual President's Dinner on May 17. The award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the college. Nystuen served on the FVCC Board of Trustees for 13 years, including eight years as Board Chair.
- **Dr. David Long**, FVCC chemistry faculty member, and 10 FVCC chemistry students travelled to the French Polynesian island of Mo'orea in May to conduct research on ocean pH levels in collaboration with UC-Berkeley's Richard B. Gump South Pacific Research Station.
- Approximately 90 students presented their research, portfolios and projects during the seventh annual **FVCC Student Research Conference** on May 6 on campus. Project topics included biology, biotechnology, natural resources, chemistry, physics, history, anatomy/physiology and psychology.
- **Dr. Ivan Lorentzen**, FVCC's longest standing faculty member, retired at the end of spring semester following a 45-year career teaching psychology and other classes at the college. He was instrumental in establishing the Scholars Program (now the Honors Program) at FVCC in 2009 and has been the driving force behind the highly popular Honors Symposium lecture series.

- FVCC President Jane Karas hosted her 15th annual **Community Conversations** in May and June. President Karas traveled to seven communities in Flathead and Lincoln counties and met with **community members, business leaders, school officials** and **elected officials** to provide information and collect feedback on how the college can better serve the communities of Northwest Montana.
- FVCC welcomed 421 local **7<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade girls** to campus on May 24 for the annual **Expanding Your Horizons** event. Women employed in **STEM** professions introduced the girls to a variety of STEM fields, including health care and natural resources, through interactive presentations and hands-on activities.
- FVCC's **Art Department** held its annual Big Night on June 10, a culinary event to raise funds for student scholarships for the college's **Semester in Venice** program and other study-abroad programs.
- FVCC's **Theatre Department** presented the fourth biennial **International 10-Minute Play Festival** May 5-7. FVCC received more than 900 original 10-minute play submissions from around the world for consideration. Twelve plays were selected for production, and each play was directed by a different member of FVCC's Theatre Club.
- FVCC's **Music Department** held a concert on May 10 featuring performances by students enrolled in the Introduction to Music Technology and Composition I courses. All of the pieces performed were composed by the students.
- FVCC's Commercial Driver's License and Heavy Equipment Operator programs recently acquired a high-tech **driving simulator**, allowing students to experience life-like scenarios before getting behind the wheel of a real truck. The simulator was purchased with funds from a U.S. Department of Labor TAACCCT grant.
- **FVCC's Foundation**, in partnership with the **Bibler Foundation**, hosted spring tours and a Mother's Day brunch at the Bibler Home and Gardens in May to raise money for student scholarships.
- FVCC has been selected to receive **Big Sky Pathways** funding for the 2016-17 grant year to support dual- and concurrent-enrollment programs for high school students and enhance existing and develop new Career and Technical Education pathways for all students.