

**DATE:** October 21, 2020  
**TO:** Board of Regents  
**FROM:** Jane Karas, Ph.D., President, Flathead Valley Community College  
**RE:** Campus Report for the November 19-20, 2020 Board of Regents' Meeting

- FVCC professors **Dr. Christina Relyea** and **Dr. Ruth Wrightsman** are participating in the **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory DNA Learning Center** virtual workshop, "US Ants". The project has enlisted teams of scientists, naturalists and citizen science groups from across the country to collect and identify ant species using DNA barcoding methodology, with the goal of documenting previously unidentified species. Drs. Relyea and Wrightsman are collaborating with local high school biology teachers to incorporate the methodology in their classrooms.
- In partnership with **Miles Community College (MCC)**, FVCC is delivering FVCC's paramedicine degree program on the MCC campus beginning next fall semester with funds from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF). FVCC is also using GEERF monies to build two remote learning and workforce centers, one in Kalispell and the other in Libby, to develop and deliver courses in the trades and industrial arts. .
- The **FVCC Foundation** hosted the \_annual [Festival of Flavors](#) in October to raise money for **student scholarships**. Over the course of eight days, the festival raised nearly \$200,000. The festival concluded on Oct. 10 with the Grand Wine Online, a virtual event and auction with testimonials from scholarship recipients and donors.
- The **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** recently reported on Dr. David Long's [undergraduate research project](#) with FVCC students to measure and analyze how carbon dioxide emissions are impacting ocean pH levels.
- The senior class of the **Culinary Institute of Montana** hosted the Modernist Cuisine series in September and October, featuring three-course dinners inspired by leading contemporary chefs worldwide. The students researched the chefs, designed and costed the menus, and produced elegant meals for small, socially distanced audiences in the college's instructional kitchen.
- **Shannon Schumacher** is the new Executive Director of the FVCC Foundation. Shannon has roots in the Flathead Valley and is excited to return to Northwest Montana. Prior to

taking the helm of the FVCC Foundation, Shannon worked as the Associate Vice President of Development for Montana State University.

- The FVCC Foundation raised more than \$65,000 in the Whitefish Community Foundation's **Great Fish Community Challenge** this summer. The funds will go toward a sound system with assistive-listening technology so hearing-impaired students and community members can enjoy all the great programming to come in the new Performance and Lecture Hall.
- FVCC hosted two **financial aid assistance** workshops in October to help students and their families complete the steps necessary to receive federal financial aid. The workshop was offered virtually and in-person.