

DATE: August 19, 2020
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Jane Karas, Ph.D., President, Flathead Valley Community College
RE: Campus Report for the September 16-17, 2020 Board of Regents' Meeting

- FVCC's Associate of Science in Nursing program has received accreditation from the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN-CNEA), an organization that promotes excellence and integrity in nursing education globally. To earn NLN-CNEA accreditation, FVCC underwent an extensive process to demonstrate competency in five core standards. FVCC's program is accredited through June, 2026.
- FVCC launched a digital experience web page for new and prospective students. Visitors can explore buildings, learning spaces, labs, student apartments, and more through a new 360-degree tour. The web page also houses a digital version of FVCC's viewbook, a welcome video, and other helpful information for new students and their family members.
- FVCC's Planning for Fall task force consulted with the Flathead City-County Health Department and implemented recommendations from the CDC, MUS Healthy Fall 2020: Planning Guidelines for Campuses, and MSU's Roadmap to produce the FVCC COVID-19 Guidebook for students.
- FVCC's TRIO Student Support Services request for funding has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education, providing critical funding for the next five years for comprehensive academic support to selected first generation, low-income college students and/or students with disabilities. FVCC's TRIO program serves 350 degree-seeking students annually.
- FVCC biology professors Dr. Mirabai McCarthy and Dr. Ruth Wrightsman have been awarded \$42,000 from the Montana INBRE (IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) program to support the study of the "Antibiotic Potential of Lichens, Fungi, and Plants in NW Montana". This is the fifth year that the FVCC biology department has received funding from this program to support undergraduate student research aimed at discovering new antibiotic compounds. Over the past five years, funds received from MT INBRE have supported over 50 biology students in this research project, and have

enabled these students to present their research findings at state, regional, and national scientific conferences. Most of the students who have participated in this research have transferred to four-year colleges and universities to complete degrees in STEM programs, and several have continued on to graduate or biomedical professional programs.

- FVCC's Admissions Office created a series of short, informative videos for new students. These videos are posted on fvcc.edu/orientation and are designed to replace the traditional in-person new student orientation until it's safe to gather in large groups again.
- The FVCC Foundation raised nearly \$30,000 for student scholarships at the Summerfest event on July 9, where guests enjoyed a Cajun shrimp boil prepared by The Culinary Institute of Montana and electric violin music performed by FVCC alum Max Armstrong.
- FVCC's Continuing Education Center served 170 K-8 students this summer through Kid's College. Students participated in online and in-person classes in subjects ranging from Japanese Language and Culture to JavaScript Developer Jam.
- Local high school juniors and seniors who participated in FVCC's Summer Experience program earned free college credits and completed community service projects. The students made fleece blankets, cloth face masks, and dog collars to donate to local nonprofit organizations.