

DATE: April 22, 2026

TO: Board of Regents

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

RE: Campus Report for the May 2026 Board of Regents' Meeting

- FVCC was designated as a 2026 Leader College by Achieving the Dream, a national organization committed to advancing community colleges as accessible hubs of learning, credentialing and economic mobility. Leader Colleges are recognized for meaningful progress in expanding access, improving early momentum metrics, advancing relevant student success strategies and growing institutional capacity.
 - <https://nbcmontana.com/news/local/flathead-valley-community-college-earns-national-recognition-as-leader-college>
- FVCC has begun the search for its next president. The FVCC Board of Trustees has partnered with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Searches, the executive search division of ACCT, to lead the process.
 - <https://flatheadbeacon.com/2026/04/06/flathead-valley-community-college-launches-presidential-search/>
- The FVCC Library earned the Excellence in Academic Libraries Award for Community & Junior College Libraries from the Association of College & Research Libraries. The award recognizes academic librarians and staff who work together as a team to develop academic libraries that are outstanding in furthering the educational missions of their institutions.
- FVCC's Culinary Institute of Montana graduating class presented their 2026 capstone project, a Mediterranean lunch pop-up restaurant, Mezze. This experience allows them to blend culinary skills with every aspect of operating a food business, making it a key milestone in their education.
 - <https://dailyinterlake.com/news/2026/apr/08/mezze-flathead-valley-community-college-culinary-students-host-lunch-pop-up/>
- FVCC Theatre and Music Departments presented their spring performance, "Into the Woods," a spellbinding musical that intertwines beloved fairy tales into a fresh, thought-provoking adventure.
- FVCC's Art Department welcomed visiting artist Susan Fletcher with a show opening event and gallery talk. Fletcher showcases her sense of awe for the natural world through painting and clay.

- FVCC and Rena Flying Coyote Collective partnered with the Library of Congress to preserve veterans stories in April. The group conducted oral history interviews of U.S. veterans for inclusion in the Veterans History Project, a public research archive that collects, preserves and makes accessible the firsthand accounts of American veterans.
- FVCC's Continuing Education Center launched its summer session of 150 non-credit classes including Kids College classes for students 6-18 years old. Also included this summer is the new Flathead Valley Farm Tour Series, partnering with 16 local farms to offer a firsthand look into how food, flowers, livestock and other products are grown and raised in Northwest Montana.
- The Wachholz College Center's Wanda Hollensteiner Art Gallery welcomed a new exhibition, "The Unprejudiced Silence Of Things That Are" by David Secrest. Secrest is a nationally known sculptor and blacksmith celebrated for his mastery of forged iron, fabricated steel and bronze.