

Montana's Future at Work Summit

Montana's Future at Work Summit 2025
Flathead Valley Community College
Arts and Technology Building Room AT139
October 2-3



Meeting the Needs of Rural Montana in Workforce Readiness

Thursday, October 2

Time	Session
8:30 am	Registration, Coffee & Light Breakfast
9:00 am	Welcome and Introductions Dr. Angela McLean , Director of American Indian/Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships, OCHE2
9:30 am	FVCC Welcome Dr. Bryan Brophy-Baermann , VP of Academic and Student Affairs, Flathead Valley Community College
9:45 am	Opening Keynote: Who Is Rural? Understanding and Centering Rural Voices in Developing and Delivering Educational Opportunity Dr. Andrew Koricich , Executive Director, Alliance for Research on Regional Colleges Mr. Adam Ray , Deputy Director, Rural Talent Lab, Appalachian State University
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	State of the State – DE, CTE, and Micro Pathways Data Chase Stahl , Data Specialist, OCHE
11:30 am	T Profile Session Facilitators Lisa Blank , Executive Director, Workforce Development, FVCC Minzi Thomas , Senior Designer, Education Design Labs Panelists Francis Bristol , Program Director, Strengthening Community Colleges Ryan Bowman , CEO, Montana Sky Ryder Harp , Western Telecom Manger, Rocky Mountain Contractors Brett Ogden , General Foreman, Rocky Mountain Contractors Sandy Harmon , Human Resources Manager, Rocky Mountain Contractors Chris Moore , Program Director, Heavy Equipment, Flathead Valley Community College

12:15 pm	Lunch (Sit with regional partners.)
12: 45 pm	Highlands College Grant Award Francis Bristol , Program Director, Strengthening Community College, Highlands College Bernie Phelps , Director of Dual Enrollment and Grant Funding, Highlands College
1:15 pm	Education Design Labs Update Minzi Thomas , Senior Designer, Education Design Labs Gabby Billiott , Associate Education Designer, Education Design Labs
2:15 pm	Jon Bennion , Executive Director, The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	Montana's Future at Work Spotlight
3:15 pm	FVCC - Kalispell Dual Enrollment Student Panel Students Margo Alexander , Whitefish HS, CNA and Biotech Emaline Whithed , Whitefish HS, Engineering, Surveying, and CAD Braelyn Gee , Columbia Falls HS, Welding Greyson Pfeifle , Columbia Falls HS, Welding, SolidWorks Nolan Rosenthal , Glacier HS, Electrical/HVAC Facilitated by Beth Romain , FVCC, Program Director Running Start
4:15 pm	FVCC Campus Tour
5:30- 8:00 pm	Night of the Trades at FVCC Trades Institute Business Exhibit Healthcare Trauma Simulation at Rebecca Chaney Broussard Center for Nursing and Health Science
6:00 pm	Reception Sponsored by Education Design Labs
7:00 pm	Dinner on your own

Friday, October 3

Time	Session
8:00 am	Networking, Coffee & Light Breakfast
8:30 am	Review of Day 1
8:45 am	2025-26 Montana Future at Work Spotlight
9:45 am	State of Montana Workforce Initiatives Joe Thiel , Deputy Commissioner of Academics, Research and Student Affairs, OCHE
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	406 Jobs Tammie Hickey , Executive Director, State Workforce Innovation Board
11:15 am	Closing Keynote: Building the Workforce for Tomorrow - Vision, Grace, and Teamwork Regent Heather Hoyer , Montana University System
12:00 pm	Summit Summary and Lunch to Go