

Memorandum

To: Board of Regents

From: Jane Karas, President
Flathead Valley Community College

Re: September 2012 Campus Report

Date: August 24, 2012

- The FVCC Foundation raised **\$1,364,837**, surpassing its \$1 million goal by **36 percent** to complete the construction of the new **Rebecca Chaney Broussard Center for Nursing and Health Science**. FVCC broke ground on the new building May 22. The ceremony celebrated a milestone for the college as the building will be the **college's first privately-funded facility**. The building will house classes and labs for FVCC nursing programs as well as other health sciences programs. It also will include a student health clinic to provide affordable basic health care services to FVCC students.
- FVCC **graduated its largest class** in the college's 44-year history May 11 during the college's **spring 2012 commencement**. FVCC awarded **434 degrees and certificates** to **403 graduates**. During the ceremony, FVCC President Dr. Jane Karas presented **Suzy Williams**, founding chair of the FVCC Foundation's Ambassadors and Alumni Association, with her seventh annual **President's Mentor Award**.
- FVCC will welcome **10 new full-time faculty** this fall to teach subjects ranging from math, sociology and surveying/natural resources to botany, chemistry, nursing and physical therapist assistant. The college also welcomed its second **Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence** this fall, providing the community a rare opportunity to learn traditional Maori art from a master Maori artist and performer. **Karl Rangikawhiti Leonard**, of Ngongotaha, Rotorua, New Zealand, holds a master's degree in Maori language and management and brings a lifetime of experience in traditional Maori art forms including weaving, carving and dance to the college. This fall, Leonard will instruct weaving and Maori culture and history courses. Leonard is one of approximately 850 outstanding foreign faculty and professionals who will teach and/or research in the United States through the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program in 2012-2013.
- FVCC honored its **largest class of practical nursing graduates** for successfully completing the two-year Associate of Applied Science degree program May 11. Twenty-seven graduates from across Northwest Montana were honored during the college's fifth annual pinning ceremony. On August 10, the college honored its **first class of registered nursing graduates** for successfully completing their Associate of Nursing degrees. Ten students from the Flathead Valley were honored during a traditional pinning ceremony.

- FVCC President Dr. Jane Karas presented longtime FVCC Foundation Board Member **Nancy Gordley** the college's prestigious **Eagle Award** for the 2011-2012 academic year at the 17th annual President's Donor Dinner. The award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to FVCC. Gordley was recognized for helping the Board raise millions of dollars for student scholarships and other projects as they were needed and for serving in key roles for major fundraising events which have helped the Foundation grow by \$50,000 annually for at least the last six years.
- The FVCC Art Department raised **over \$16,000** at its second annual **Big Night** fundraiser, an event to raise funds for student scholarships for its 2013 Semester in Venice program. The gala was comprised of an Italian-inspired dinner created by **students of The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC** and instructor **Chef Howard Karp**, an Italian-themed live auction and a program highlighting testimonials of students who have participated in the program.
- This summer, the Continuing Education Center launched a **Gunsmithing program** designed to embrace fine craftsmanship and the sporting traditions of the Flathead Valley with the hopes of increasing the resources available to area gun manufacturers and local law enforcement. The program is one of five short-term gunsmithing programs like it offered in the country. To teach the program, the college recruited **Brandon Miller**, owner of Miller Precision Arms in Kalispell, **Fred Zeglin**, owner of Z-Hat Custom Inc. in Kalispell, and **Lee Helgeland**, one of the premier stockmakers in the nation who is a member of the American Custom Gunmakers Guild Board of Directors.
- Business Instructor **Brenda Rudolph** joined two business students as they competed at the **Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference** in Chicago. **Aimee Moriarty** earned third place in Prepared Speech, and **Keith McAtee** placed in the top 10 in Human Resource Management.
- Physics Instructor **Jim Boger** and his physics students traveled to Bozeman to enter their student spectrograph in the **National Student Solar Spectrograph Competition** held at Montana State University in Bozeman May 16-19. The team was recognized among all competing teams for having the most enthusiasm during their presentation.
- **More than 150 FVCC students** presented research projects during the college's third annual **Scholars Conference on Student Research**. The event provided participating students the opportunity to present their research, portfolios and projects to members of the community. More than 20 student presentations were delivered and over 100 research posters were showcased during the event. **Dr. James McKusick**, dean of the Davidson Honors College at The University of Montana, kicked off the event with an opening address.
- FVCC President Dr. Jane Karas hosted her eleventh annual **Community Conversations** in June. President Karas traveled to eight communities from Eureka to Polson and met with community members, school officials and legislators, sharing information on the college's activities and operations and collecting feedback on the college's strengths and areas of opportunity.

- The FVCC Foundation hosted **568 guests** at the spring and summer tours of the **Bibler Home and Gardens** in May and July, generating **\$5,923** to fund the FVCC student scholarship program. The spring tours opened with a **Mother's Day champagne brunch** prepared by **students of The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC** under the direction of instructor **Chef Howard Karp**. The summer tours kicked off with a special presentation by Carol Bibler, daughter of the late Sam Bibler who founded the Bibler Home and Gardens, on her memories of her father's love of swans and miniature animals in the gardens.
- FVCC jewelry arts students **Kathy Smith, Deanna Campsell** and **Monica Kitzmiller** had their jewelry design renderings published in the July 2012 issue of *Lapidary Journal's Jewelry Artist magazine*. The national publication is the leading source of information, supplies and services in the jewelry, bead and gem industries.
- FVCC won its fifth grand prize "**Sweepstakes Trophy**" in seven years for its float entry in the **2012 Northwest Montana Fair Parade**. FVCC students, alumni and employees constructed the float and participated in the parade.
- FVCC hosted **Montana Shakespeare in the Parks'** production of *Hamlet* August 21. FVCC was one of 59 venues throughout Montana, northern Wyoming, eastern Idaho, eastern Washington and western North Dakota that hosted the outreach program through Montana State University's College of Arts and Architecture.
- Director of The Scholars Program at FVCC **Ivan Lorentzen** and Business Instructor **Chris Hanchett** attended the annual **Western Regional Honors Conference** in Albuquerque, N.M. They were joined by two Scholars Program students **Kyle Selhost** and **Ursula DeStefano**, each of whom presented their research projects at the conference. They were among 300 conference participants comprised of faculty and student representatives from 27 two-year and four-year colleges and universities across the western United States.
- FVCC introduced **Grandparent's College** to its continuing education programming, offering older members of the community the unique opportunity to spend time with a grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or young friends in a fun and educational setting. The classes, "CLUE – Life Size" and "Art for All Ages," sparked great interest among the community, generating a waiting list to enroll in the classes.
- Flathead Valley Community College Theatre presented "**School House Rock**" and "**A Bagful of Fables**" for its **2012 Children's Summer Theatre** program. **FVCC Theatre students** served as the directors, stage managers, and technical crew for both productions.
- FVCC partnered with **The University of Montana** to sponsor a **legislative coffee** on the FVCC campus July 20. Legislators and 2012 candidates were invited to meet with the college officials for a discussion on higher education.
- The construction of **eight new tennis courts** on the FVCC wrapped up in late July. The new courts feature a natural amphitheater setting and replace the original courts that were located on

the property where the new Rebecca Chaney Broussard Center for Nursing and Health Science is being constructed.

- FVCC **Kid's College** returned for three weeks June 13 and welcomed **199 unduplicated** students. The program offered 31 week-long, half-day classes for kids of all interests, abilities and grade levels. Some of the most popular classes included "Tennis," "Super Spy Camp" and "Fancy in All Ways."
- As part of a feasibility study measuring the need to add an agriculture program to the FVCC curriculum, Sustainable Agriculture Program Coordinator **Heather Estrada** spearheaded the planting of a **4,000 square-foot organically-managed garden** on campus this summer. To support efforts, an **FVCC Farm Fresh Stand** was constructed by Building Trades Apprentice Coordinator **Greg Waldrop** and Welding and Metal Fabrication Apprentice Coordinator **Mort Hill** along with **volunteers from Leadership Flathead and FVCC**. The stand has been used weekly throughout the summer and fall months to sell farm fresh vegetables and fruits grown in the garden to the FVCC community.
- The **students of The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC**, under the direction of instructor **Chef Hillary Ginepra**, presented a special "**Farm to Table**" winemaker dinner August 10. The dinner featured seasonal and locally grown and raised foods paired with select wines. Proceeds from the dinner go toward supporting The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC.
- FVCC held a graduation ceremony for its **GED graduates** on June 12. **Nearly 225 graduates** were recognized for completing GED requirements for the 2011-2012 academic year. The next evening, FVCC's **Lincoln County Campus** honored **19 GED graduates** during a ceremony and celebrated its high completion rate, helping **94.7 percent of students** who entered the program in 2012 successfully complete their GEDs.
- Four FVCC students were named summer 2012 recipients of **Whitefish Credit Union's Community Pride Scholarships**. **Joy Pattengale, Deborah Adams, Patricia Holcomb** and **Shelly Struck** received scholarship awards totaling \$1,600 for the summer semester.