

## Memorandum

**To:** Board of Regents

**From:** Jane Karas, President  
Flathead Valley Community College

**Re:** May 2013 Campus Report

**Date:** April 26, 2013

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- The new **Rebecca Chaney Broussard Center for Nursing and Health Science** welcomed its first students for classes on April 8. Donors and community members gathered to celebrate the opening of the college's first privately-funded building at a **dedication ceremony** April 30. **U.S. Senator Max Baucus** was in attendance at the celebration.
- FVCC partnered with the **Flathead Job Service** to organize and host the **2013 Flathead Valley Job Fair** on April 18. **Sixty-three employers** actively seeking candidates to fill current job openings participated in the free event. The event was attended by **937 job-seekers** from across the community.
- The Corporation for National and Community Service named FVCC to the **2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll**, the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement. FVCC is among 690 colleges and universities in the nation recognized with the honor and among only 113 of those to earn the recognition of **Honor Roll with Distinction**.
- FVCC engineering student **Tanner Morrison** has been named a **Coca-Cola New Century Scholar**. As the top scoring student in the Montana, Tanner was presented with a **\$2,000 scholarship** and plaque from the Coca-Cola Foundation and Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. In addition, Tanner was recognized at the Phi Theta Kappa Annual Convention in San Jose, Calif. Following his graduation from FVCC in May, Tanner will transfer to Montana State University in Bozeman to continue his studies in mechanical engineering.
- FVCC criminal justice student **Andrew Hart** has received a **Georgetown University Scholarship** in the amount of **\$3,500**. As part of the scholarship, Andrew will complete a summer internship with **U.S. Senator Jon Tester's Subcommittee on Homeland Security** with an emphasis on federal workforce efficiency. After graduating from FVCC, Andrew will transfer to Carroll College to continue his studies in political science.
- Northwest Montana Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Director **Chris Parson** has been honored with the **SBDC Excellence and Innovation Award** by the U.S. Small Business Administration for Region VIII. The regional award is given annually to honor an SBDC for excellence in providing value to small businesses and advancing program delivery and

management through innovation. Chris will be honored at the Montana Small Business Week Awards Luncheon on June 13 in Bozeman. Earlier this spring, Chris was named “**406 Man**” in the February/March issue of *406 Woman* magazine.

- For the first time, the FVCC Foundation is awarding up to **\$20,000 in summer scholarships** for students enrolled in degree programs this spring semester at FVCC. The scholarships were created to help students in need pay for college, including those who would have relied on Pell Grants to finance their summer education.
- Physics Professor **Jim Boger**, Chemistry Instructor **Dr. David Long** and Mathematics Instructor **Dr. Don Hickethier** accompanied four students to the **Montana Space Grant Consortium (MSGC) Symposium** at Montana State University in Bozeman April 19. Engineering students **Tanner Morrison** and **Louis Grisez** presented their work on the solar spectrograph being constructed for National Student Solar Spectrograph Competition in May and won the top prize for group presentations, which included a \$500 cash award. Chemistry undergraduate research students **Laurel Sugden** and **Kristi Lundgren** presented their research on Zinc-Air batteries. FVCC represented the only two-year college at the event.
- This spring, **Chef’s Table**, presented by the students of **The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC** under the direction of instructor **Chef Howard Karp**, teamed up with the FVCC Foundation to host a special **April in Paris dinner** on April 19. The event featured a five-course French-themed meal in the ambiance of 1920s Paris. The event raised approximately **\$17,000 in proceeds** to benefit FVCC students with the greatest financial needs.
- Following approval from the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, FVCC launched a non-credit **First-class Boiler Engineer–Licensing Preparation course** to prepare students to take the Montana first-class boiler operator/engineer’s license exam. Developed in partnership with **F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber** as a result of the company’s need to employ first-class engineers, the project is the result of a tax incentive from the **Flathead County Commission** created by the **Montana Legislature** and in partnership with **Flathead Electric Cooperative**. The course also was launched to **fill a need among Montana businesses** that hire first-class boiler engineers and have training needs for their current and future workforce to continue operations and will **provide support to continuing oil and gas development** that require boiler operators and offer high-paying job opportunities in Montana and across the region.
- FVCC **welding and electrical technology faculty and students** teamed up to build the Flathead Valley’s first **dragon boat trailer** to meet the need of transporting dragon boats across town for the Flathead Valley’s annual **Dragon Boat Festival**. The project was initiated by **Bruce and Jennifer Gunderson**, founder members of the Flathead Valley’s official dragon boat race team, the Flathead Dragonflies, in partnership with the **Kalispell Convention & Visitor Bureau**, **Mountain West Bank, N.A.**, Flathead DragonFlies founding member **Doug Coates** and **Dave Knoll** of Northland Fabrication.
- Students in **The Scholars Program at FVCC** represented the college and presented their research at two different conferences in April. Seven students traveled to Flagstaff, Ariz., where they presented their research at the **Western Regional Honors Council Annual Conference**. **Tanner Morrison, Andrew Hart, Seth Donahue, Tyler Rasmussen, Hannah Brinton, Louis**

**Grisez** and **Andrea Kavert**, along with FVCC faculty **Dr. Christina Relyea**, **Dr. David Long** and **Dr. Jessica Hopkins**, joined students from other two-year and four-year colleges and universities across the western United States at the conference. Three other students, **JonAlan Osborne**, **Heather Fraley** and **Stephanie Christensen**, traveled with faculty **Jerry Lundgren** and **Dr. Sue Justis** to Missoula where they presented their research at **The University of Montana Conference on Undergraduate Research**.

- The **Ambassadors and Alumni of FVCC** presented its spring luncheon March 25. The event featured a panel of guests representing the local manufacturing workforce including Plum Creek Senior Human Resources Manager, Manufacturing **Jacey Barnaby**; Applied Materials Fabrication Manager **Dean Campbell**; Nomad Global Communication Solutions, Inc. Business Advisor **Carl Coletti**; and FVCC Executive Director, Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning **Dr. Brad Eldredge**. 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Ryan Mitchell presented the **2013 Distinguished Alumni Award** to *Daily Inter Lake* Publisher **Rick Weaver**. The students of The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC prepared lunch for nearly 140 guests who attended the event.
- FVCC hosted its sixth annual **College for a Day** March 5. **Approximately 675 juniors** from Flathead, Glacier, Columbia Falls, Bigfork, Polson and Lincoln County high schools, Laser Alternative High School and Montana Academy spent the day at FVCC experiencing the college classroom setting, meeting college instructors and exploring the diverse career options available in the workforce. **Parkside Federal Credit Union** sponsored the event and donated **four \$250 college scholarships** for participating students to enter to win.
- Flathead Valley Community College welcomed a **record number of students** to its 19<sup>th</sup> annual **Senior Institute** this spring. The program enrolled **more than 295 senior citizens** 65 years of age and older and involved a series of 14 credit classes with subjects ranging from jewelry making, the Civil War and beginning yoga to computers, line dancing and the U.S. economy.
- **FVCC's Logger Sports Team** outscored three teams, including The University of Montana, University of Idaho, Spokane Community College, to **secure the top title** of its home competition, **Stumpjumper Days**, April 20. The team also traveled to The University of Montana where it competed against nine other colleges and universities and placed third at the 74<sup>th</sup> annual Association of Western Forestry Clubs Conclave. The team finished its season by performing free demonstrations for the community at the annual Family Forestry Expo in Columbia Falls.
- High school students **Anna Couch**, **Cassie Deane** and **Bailey Gable** were recognized at a spring FVCC Chef's Table dinner for each winning a **\$500 culinary arts scholarship** for their participation in the **Montana ProStart Invitational**. **Chef Howard Karp**, instructor at The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC, presented the students with their scholarships. All three students will be attending The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC this fall.
- FVCC welcomed home Art Instructors **John Rawlings** and **Susan Guthrie** and Theatre Arts Instructor **David Ackroyd** and **10 students** who ventured to **Venice, Italy**, this spring for the college's fifth annual **semester abroad program**. The program allows students to earn up to 20

college credits by participating in a program of study that encompasses language, cultural and art history, watercolor and special courses on the theatre of Venice.

- English and Theatre Arts Instructor **Brian Bechtold** and Theatre Arts Instructor **Rich Haptonstall** led a group of **14 students** during FVCC's third annual **London spring break tour** March 29-April 7. Students earned three college credits while touring the city's landmarks and historic sites.
- Ceramics Instructor **David Smith** was featured in an exhibition titled "**Location**" in Houston as well as an exhibition titled "**Of the Earth**" at the Hockaday museum in Kalispell. Ceramics students and faculty dedicated a day to the **Flathead Food Bank** to make dozens of bowls for its annual "**Bowl-a-thon**" fundraiser.
- In celebration of **Week of the Young Child**, students, families and teachers of the FVCC Early Childhood Center participated in the community's **Parade of Children** at Kalispell Center Mall April 20. Teachers of the center conducted numerous activities for participating families at the event. Artwork by the center's infants, toddlers and preschoolers was on display in various places in community throughout the week. Earlier this spring, the Early Childhood Center celebrated its fifth anniversary and held a birthday party for its children and their families.
- Biology Instructor **Dr. Ruth Wrightsman** spearheaded a **DNA Day** on campus in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of DNA's structure. An information table and activities were available for students and the FVCC community to participate in, including extracting DNA from strawberries, making DNA origami and listening to DNA music. In addition, Ruth was awarded a fellowship to attend the annual **Bio-Link summer meeting** held in June at the University of California-Berkley campus.
- In celebration of **Earth Week**, the FVCC Renewable Resource Club hosted a **week of free festivities** for the community. Activities included an aluminum can drive, clothing swap, Earth Day recycled art contest, movie night, film screenings, chemical-free household cleaner demonstrations, display boards and information tables, campus and community garden clean-up, brat fry featuring locally-made brats and buns, and an arts and crafts activity workshop for kids.
- The Scholars Program at FVCC, in partnership with **The Abbie Shelter** and **LOVE LIVES HERE**, an affiliate of the Montana Human Rights Network, hosted a community conversation on violence titled "**100 Days Past Sandy Hook**" March 26. The event offered attendees a safe place to reflect on violence in our culture as highlighted by the tragic shooting that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December. Round-table discussions took place at the beginning of the evening followed by expert speakers from the community including representatives from Western Montana Mental Health, the Kalispell Police Department, and the Flathead High School Guidance Department.
- The FVCC Multicultural Affairs Office hosted a free **documentary film festival** for the community in March. The four-day event showcased four films to promote culture diversity and global awareness to the community.