

## Memorandum

**To:** Board of Regents

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

**Re:** May 2014 Campus Report

**Date:** April 25, 2014

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- FVCC partnered with the **Flathead Job Service** to organize and host the **2014 Flathead Valley Job Fair** April 16. **Eighty-two employers** actively seeking candidates to fill current job openings participated in the free event. The event was attended by **625 job-seekers** from across the community, including 125 veterans. Prior to the job fair, FVCC and the Flathead Job Service hosted free **Job Fair Prep Events**, such as National Career Readiness Certificate testing and resume, online application and job fair pitch classes, for FVCC students.
- FVCC President Jane Karas presented a **K-12 luncheon** April 29. Principals and superintendents of junior high/middle schools and high schools from across Flathead County gathered on the FVCC campus to hear a college update from the president and engage in an open discussion on how the college can better serve area K-12 schools.
- **FVCC's Entrepreneurship Center** teamed up with **ImagineIF Libraries** to present **Montana's first Maker Faire** February 22. The **Kalispell Mini Maker Faire** featured informative presentations and more than 30 innovative exhibits, many of which included hands-on activities for the public to explore and enjoy. A crowd of **over 600 faire goers** attended the event.
- FVCC welcomed Montana State Superintendent **Denise Juneau** onto campus for a **Graduation Matters Montana press conference** she presented March 12. There, she announced a \$10,000 grant award from the Montana Office of Public Instruction to support the Graduation Matters Kalispell program. In February, FVCC participated in the second annual I-Pledge to Graduate event held at Flathead County Fairgrounds. More than 700 local eighth graders participated in the event where they all pledged to graduate from high school.
- FVCC received approval as a test site for **Emergency Vehicle Technician Certification** through the Emergency Vehicle Technician Certification Commission, Inc. In response to a community need, the college will provide opportunities for technicians to **test for certification in Northwest Montana** instead of having to travel lengthy distances to sit for exams. FVCC will test for four different technician tracks including **fire apparatus; airport rescue and fire fighting vehicle; law enforcement vehicle; and ambulance**, in addition to **management certification**. The first testing opportunities are scheduled for this summer.

- FVCC conducted two **workshops for teachers**—one focused on **manufacturing** and the other on **health science**. The workshops brought together **high school teachers, FVCC faculty and staff** and **local industry leaders** to have an open discussion on how everyone can work collectively to **prepare students for success within these industries**. The focus centered on industry needs and how to integrate specific skills in both high school and college curriculum. FVCC worked with the participating high schools to ensure there were no gaps or duplication in the curriculum and that it was aligned to provide students a smooth transition from high school to college and then directly into the workforce.
- **FVCC President Jane Karas** served as a keynote speaker at the **Kalispell Chamber of Commerce March Luncheon**. Karas shared the college’s vision and ongoing growth to area business leaders and members of the community.
- The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC (CIM) welcomed world-renowned Napa Valley-based **Executive Chef Nai Kang Kuan** for a visit this spring. During his visit, the executive chef at Morimoto Napa prepared a special dinner for FVCC Foundation donors and conducted demonstrations for CIM students. Chef Kang works under Japanese Chef Masaharu Morimoto, a regular on the hit television series *Iron Chef* and *Iron Chef America*.
- After a four year hiatus, the **FVCC Honors Symposium** returned, offering FVCC and the area community five opportunities to hear science experts address various topics supporting this year’s theme, **“Science Matters: Skepticism, Inquiry and the Need for Literacy.”** This year’s series welcomed guest lecturers from Montana State University, The University of Montana, The University of Texas - Austin and Union of Concerned Scientists in Cambridge, Mass.
- 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 **“Casablanca – The Dinner”** April 12. The period attire affair took patrons back to 1942 as they enjoyed a five-course French and Moroccan-themed dinner. Over **\$14,000** was raised to support scholarships and programs at FVCC.
- The **Ambassadors and Alumni of FVCC** presented its annual spring luncheon March 11. The event featured a fine arts panel including Speech/Theatre Arts Professor **Joe Legate**; FVCC alumnus and The University of Montana theatre student **Joshua Kelly**; FVCC Theatre Adjunct Professors **Nicholas and Rebecca Spear**; FVCC Theatre Arts/Music Associate Professor **Richard Haptonstall**; FVCC Art Professor and Art Department Director **John Rawlings**; FVCC alumnus and Art Adjunct Professor and Flathead High School Art Teacher **Josh Mohler**; and renowned Contemporary Western Artist **Nancy Cawdrey**. FVCC Alumni and Ambassadors Co-chair Suzy Williams presented the **2014 Distinguished Alumni Award** to retired Kalispell Police Chief **Frank Garner**. The students of The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC prepared lunch for the 125 guests who attended the event.
- FVCC hosted its sixth annual **College for a Day** March 4. **Approximately 600 juniors** from Flathead, Glacier, Bigfork, Whitefish and Lincoln County high schools spent the day at FVCC experiencing the college classroom setting, meeting college instructors and exploring the diverse career options available in the workforce.

- FVCC held its 20<sup>th</sup> annual **Senior Institute** this spring. The program enrolled more than **230 senior citizens** 65 years of age and older and involved a series of 13 credit classes with subjects ranging from Birds of Northwest Montana, the Civil War and beginning yoga to ceramics, computers and gardening.
- FVCC hosted two free workshops for college employees, community members and local nonprofit agencies February 13. “**Our Veterans, Their Transition, Practical Strategies to Assist Them**” focused on the challenges veterans face when they return from war and how we can better serve them. The workshops, presented by **Dr. Peter Schmidt**, project director and trainer for the Veterans Training Support Center of the Center for Learning Connections at Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood, Wash., also featured a **panel of FVCC student veterans** and were attended by over 110 participants.
- FVCC welcomed **Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors** for its annual conference in Kalispell. Activities included a presentation by FVCC Librarian **Michael Ober** on Glacier’s legacy photos, a social hour presented by the FVCC Foundation, a surveying program open house and a presentation by FVCC Surveying Professor **Dave Dorsett** on the long search for the Baptiste Mineral Surveys on the Flathead Forest. More than a quarter of the 200 surveyors present at the conference were FVCC surveying graduates.
- Biology Associate Professor **Ruth Wrightsman, Ph.D.**, attended a Cyanobacteria Workshop at The University of Texas - Austin where the largest collection of cyanobacteria and microalgae cultures in the nation is housed. **FVCC biology undergraduate research students** are working on a project to **isolate and identify cyanobacteria strains**, which hold great promise for their abilities to produce biofuels and serve as a potential source of new antibiotic compounds, from local rivers and lakes using the information Dr. Wrightsman brought back from the workshop.
- With the expansion of **FVCC’s agriculture program** and the addition of the college’s new **Campus Farm** site, including the college’s first greenhouse, the program began offering **farm shares** for the coming growing season to FVCC faculty, staff and students. Earlier this spring, the program partnered with **Citizens for a Better Flathead** to sponsor a community **Seed Swap and Speed Date a Farmer** event.
- 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 12. 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 at the mall throughout the week.
- In celebration of Dr. Seuss’s birthday, FVCC hosted **Seussville University**, a day-long celebration of Dr. Seuss, to promote literacy to **more than 200 second grade students** from five area schools. Activities included classes in art, music, math and reading and a theatre production, each of which centered on a specific Dr. Seuss book. Approximately 30 FVCC students participated in the event through the college’s **Service Learning** program.

- FVCC hosted **College Goal Montana**, a program that provides students who want to attend college and their families the opportunity to obtain assistance in applying for financial aid, on its Libby campus February 12 and its Kalispell campus February 13. Financial aid officers and other qualified professionals were on site to provide assistance in understanding and completing the necessary paperwork. Over 50 participants completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and were entered into a drawing for a \$500 college scholarship.
- FVCC's Multicultural Affairs Office hosted a number of free presentations for the community this spring. Events included a **West African drum and dance presentation and workshop** presented by **Bob Sherrick** and **Leslie Yancey**; "**We Are All Americans**," a presentation honoring Civil War hero Ely S. Parker, by Composer and FVCC Theatre and Music Adjunct Professor **Craig Thomas Naylor**; and "**Freedom Train**," presented by **St. Charles Women's Choir** of Whitefish, under the direction of FVCC Office Technology/Business Professor **Karla West**, in honor of Black History Month.
- Theatre Adjunct Professors **Nicholas and Rebecca Spear** made their **FVCC Theatre directorial debuts** this spring with the heartwarming musical, "**Opal**." FVCC Theatre concluded its spring season with its third biennial **International 10 Minute Play Festival** featuring original 10-minute plays selected from submissions from across the nation and globe.
- **Five FVCC Theatre alumni** were featured in **The University of Montana Theatre's** recent production of Lanford Wilson's "**Book of Days**." Alumni included Director **Cohen Ambrose** and Actors **Greg Bortz**, **Nate Atkins**, **Hugh Butterfield** and **Joshua Kelly**.
- Five FVCC students were named spring 2014 recipients of **Whitefish Credit Union Community Pride Scholarships**. **Jon Crandall**, **Jessica Blanc**, **Rocky Davis**, **Danielle Ruonavaara** and **Ryan Schwegel** received scholarships totaling **\$1,500** for the spring 2014 semester.