

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 27, 2015

TO: Board of Regents

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

RE: Campus Report for the May, 2015 Board of Regents' Meeting

- FVCC's **Running Start program**, which provides eligible high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to get an affordable start on their college education by earning college credits while still in high school, has reached **record enrollment**. FVCC enrolled **382 Running Start students** in college classes this spring, a **24 percent increase** from last spring. 31 percent of Running Start students continue their college education at FVCC. On April 27, **Montana Lt. Gov. Angela McLean** presented a dual enrollment event at Flathead High School, where a panel of current FVCC Running Start students shared their stories and the benefits of the Running Start program.
- FVCC alumna **Sarah Rugheimer**, who recently completed her **Ph.D. at Harvard University in astrophysics**, shared her success story by delivering two presentations to FVCC students and the campus community during a visit to Kalispell. She was honored as a **2014 Harvard Horizons Scholar**, where she presented her research on how to detect life in the atmosphere of another planet. She has accepted a **Simons Origins of Life Postdoctoral Fellowship**, which she plans to take to the University of St. Andrews, United Kingdom, in Fall 2015.
- FVCC sophomore **Scott Brooke** was among 201 two-year college students from across the nation honored as a **2015 Campus Compact's Newman Civic Fellow**. Brooke was recognized for his leadership as president of The FVCC Veterans' Association and for his advocacy for veterans on the college campus and in the greater community.
- FVCC biology student **Zoe Glasser Breeding** is one of 75 students nationwide selected to participate in the 2015-2016 **U.S. Congress German Bundestag Youth Exchange**, a fully-funded fellowship that supports a year of study in Germany. Breeding also was accepted to **Wellesley College** to continue her undergraduate studies.
- FVCC partnered with the **Flathead Job Service** to organize and present the **2015 Flathead Valley Job Fair** April 16. A record of 94 participants, comprised of 84 employers and 10 apprenticeship, education and workforce training agencies, participated in the event, which was attended by **nearly 500 job-seekers** from across the community. New this year, the **Consortium for Healthcare Education Online (CHEO) Project at FVCC** and **PlanYourHealthCareer.org** sponsored a Job Seeker Support Center, where job seekers could meet with a career coach, receive career

readiness support, take career interest assessments and complete online applications for current job openings.

- The FVCC Foundation's **Festival of Flavors** kicked off its eighth season with **Napa in Bloom**, raising **\$24,000** to support student scholarships. The exquisite five-course dinner featured **Silver Oak Cellars Chef Dominic Orsini** and the **students of The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC**, under the direction of chefs **Howard Karp, Tracy Darue** and **Manda Hudak**, along with wine pairings from Silver Oak Cellars and other award-winning California wines. The students assisted Orsini with food preparation, plating and service as part of their catering internships.
- FVCC's **2015 Honors Symposium** offered members of the community five opportunities to hear from regional and national experts who addressed various topics that supported this year's theme, "**The Next America: How Millennials are Changing Everything.**" The free lecture series, supported by **Humanities Montana, American Association of University Women Kalispell branch, FVCC Alumni & Ambassadors Association** and the **Theodore Chase Endowment Fund**, examined the next America and how the nation is facing challenges that seem to threaten some of its most cherished foundations.
- FVCC was named a recipient of the **Gianforte Family Foundation's scholarships** valued up to \$500,000 for Montana two-year colleges. **Greg Gianforte** visited the FVCC campus, where he met with college officials and local manufacturers, toured the college's Occupational Trades building and met the FVCC student recipients of the Gianforte Family Foundation's scholarships.
- **FVCC's Entrepreneurship Center** and **ImagineIF Libraries** partnered to present the second annual **Kalispell Mini Maker Faire** on the FVCC campus. The free event showcased family-friendly interactive exhibits and informative presentations by local makers. It also featured presentations by FVCC faculty and students engaged in STEM projects. A crowd of **over 600 faire goers** attended the event.
- FVCC hosted **Safety Fest Montana**, organized by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, January 12-16. The college welcomed more than 530 participants to the event, which included professional development and safety certification workshops.
- **Approximately 100 FVCC students** and **students from Whitefish High School's Chemistry Department** presented their research projects during the sixth annual **FVCC Conference on Student Research**. The event provided participating students the opportunity to present their research, portfolios and projects to college faculty, staff and students and members of the community. Project topics ranged widely in such categories as biology, biotechnology, natural resources, remote sensing, chemistry, physics, history, psychology and nursing, among others.
- The **Ambassadors & Alumni Association of FVCC** presented its annual spring luncheon. The event featured a STEM panel, including Chemistry Assistant Professor **David Long**, Ph.D., Biology Associate Professor **Ruth Wrightsman**, Ph.D., forensics and biotechnology alumna **Lydia Sykora**, biology student **Nick Glynos** and computer

science and Web technology student **Peter Lanier**. FVCC Alumni & Ambassadors Co-chair Suzy Williams and FVCC Foundation Director Colleen Unterreiner presented the **2015 Distinguished Alumni Award** to retired Dean Emeritus **Faith Hodges**.

- FVCC welcomed **U.S. Congressman Ryan Zinke** onto campus March 2 for a town hall meeting he presented for the community.
- FVCC hosted its seventh annual **College for a Day**, welcoming **approximately 800 juniors** from Flathead, Glacier, Columbia Falls, Bigfork, Whitefish, Polson, Hot Springs and Lincoln County high schools onto campus. The students spent the day experiencing the college classroom setting, meeting college instructors and exploring the diverse career options available in the workforce.
- FVCC held its 21st annual **Senior Institute** this spring. The program enrolled more than **250 senior citizens** 65 years of age and older and involved a series of 16 credit classes with subjects ranging from birds of Northwest Montana, bone health and musical theatre to ceramics, social media and the Civil War.
- FVCC welcomed area business and community professionals onto campus for the 13th annual **Flathead Valley Economic Forecast Breakfast** hosted by **Montana West Economic Development**. FVCC Executive Director, Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning **Brad Eldredge**, Ph.D., presented a forecast for annual job growth and discussed risks facing the local economy in 2015.
- FVCC hosted **College Goal Montana** on both college campuses to provide students who want to attend college and their families free assistance in applying for financial aid. In total, the college assisted nearly 60 individuals with their FAFSA applications.
- FVCC participated in **Kalispell Public Schools I-Pledge to Graduate** event. Nearly 700 local eighth grade students participated in the event, where they signed a pledge to graduate from high school.
- FVCC Art Instructor **John Rawlings** and Theatre Instructor **David Ackroyd** and 10 students ventured to **Venice, Italy**, in January for the college's seventh **semester abroad program**. The program allows students to earn up to 22 college credits by participating in a program of study that encompasses language, art, Italian culture and theatre courses.
- The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC **Chef's Table** program, now in its seventh year, **partnered with local breweries** to present a **microbrew dinner**. The event allowed guests to experience exceptional fine cuisine paired with local handcrafted microbrews while supporting culinary arts students as they complete their first-year internships. Proceeds raised from the event support the college's culinary program.
- FVCC launched a **Student Leadership Development Program** comprised of two leadership skill-building workshops designed for students. Topics covered in the well-

attended workshops included personal leadership styles, time management, event planning and leadership in meetings.

- To support the national movement on sexual assault awareness and prevention on college campuses, FVCC launched a week-long “**Be Empowered**” campaign comprised of free educational activities for FVCC students and employees. Activities included an information table on Title IX, know your alcohol limits and drunk goggles, a self-defense class and a frank talk on sexual assault and prevention.
- FVCC welcomed Glacier National Park Superintendent **Jeff Mow** and U.S. Geological Survey Research Ecologist **Dan Fagre** onto campus for “**Advancing Not Retreating: Glacier National Park is a Global Conservation Leader**,” a free presentation they delivered for the community. The event was sponsored by the Glacier National Park Conservancy in partnership with FVCC’s Natural Resources program.
- FVCC partnered with **Flathead Conservation District** to host two free community events this spring. First, the **Small Landowners Weed Workshop** featured various stations and presentations by local experts which provided participants a general overview of weed management basics. The event was sponsored by Montana Dept. of Agriculture, Flathead Electric Cooperative, Inc. Roundup for Safety, MSU Extension, CHS, Glacier National Park, Flathead County Weed Department, U.S. Forest Service and Daily Inter Lake. Second, the college co-sponsored an Earth Day movie night event, “**Symphony of the Soil**.” Along with the film, the event featured an appearance by Sammy Soil, the USDA’s soil conservation mascot, a presentation by Jay Skovlin, Natural Resources Conservation Service major land resource area soil survey leader, a local seed display and information on local farms and FVCC’s agriculture program.
- FVCC welcomed disabled stand-up comedian **Michael Beers** of Missoula for a free community performance. Presented by the college’s **Appreciating Individuality, Challenges and Excellence Support Group**, the event provided members of the community an opportunity to enjoy live comedy while supporting students with disabilities at FVCC.
- The **FVCC Alpha Iota Pi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa** was awarded **third place for its Honors in Action project** and also earned a **Four Star Level Award** in the Five Star Chapter Plan at the Greater Northwest Region PTK Conference in Seattle, Washington. PTK President **Liz Vinson** was nominated as the Montana state flag bearer at the 2015 International Phi Theta Kappa Conference in San Antonio, Texas.
- The FVCC Service Learning Office organized three spring **Service Saturdays** to benefit various nonprofits in Northwest Montana. FVCC students, faculty, staff and alumni were invited to participate in service projects, which supported **Habitat for Humanity, Montana Veterans Home** and the **FVCC and Nourish the Flathead Community Garden**.
- The **FVCC Veterans' Association** participated in the **Whitefish Winter Carnival Grand Parade**. FVCC student veterans raised awareness of the college's veterans community and resources available on campus while supporting this year's carnival theme, "America the Beautiful: Honoring Veterans."

- FVCC's Student Government partnered with Phi Theta Kappa, Business Professionals of America and The Veterans' Association, to present **The Fur Ball**, a formal charity masquerade ball to benefit the **Flathead County Animal Shelter**. FVCC students, faculty, staff and alumni and their guests attended the event to support the cause.
- **Global Friends**, FVCC's international student club, hosted two free community brownbag lunch presentations on **Kumamoto, Japan**, Montana's sister state. Presenter **Kim Morisaki**, who oversees special projects and business development at Montana West Economic Development, shared her personal experiences from when she spent 11 years living and working in Kumamoto.