

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 10, 2015

TO: Board of Regents

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

RE: Campus Report for the March, 2016 Board of Regents' Meeting

- The FVCC Board of Trustees voted unanimously in December to move forward with the **development and construction of on-campus student housing** with the goal of having students residing in the units by Fall 2017. The college is currently accepting proposals from architects.
- The FVCC Board of Trustees appointed Kelly Dowling Stimpson, J.D. of Bigfork to fill the Board position vacated by the resignation of John Phelps in January. Stimpson will serve on the Board until May 2016.
- **David Long, Ph.D.** received a **NASA Montana Space Grant Consortium** grant in support of a project that engages FVCC students studying chemistry, biology, physics, mathematics and engineering in collaborative research on the effects of changes in carbon chemistry and pH on the growth rates of coral and competing photosynthetic algae.
- The **Gianforte Family Foundation** recently awarded **scholarships totaling \$32,500 to 33 advanced manufacturing students at FVCC**. The students will use the scholarships to help cover the cost of tuition this semester.
- **RevUp MT** is enrolling its first student in the online portion of two of FVCC's advanced manufacturing courses. This is the **pilot of the SWAMMEI/RevUP MT statewide course-sharing agreement** where students from around the state can take advanced manufacturing courses from FVCC for the lecture part of the course and the hands-on, practical portion at a partner Assessment Center college.
- FVCC Student Engagement Coordinator Wendy Jeschke and Intramurals Coordinator Sarah Bergford organized a "**Week of Welcome**" for students during the first full week of classes this semester. Activities were designed to introduce students to campus clubs and resources, as well as foster a greater sense of belonging among students.
- FVCC Faculty Development and Assessment Specialist **Jessica Hopkins, Ph.D.** presented an accreditation workshop at **Gonzaga University** in January to academic leaders from around the Northwest. The workshop, coordinated by the **Pacific Northwest Learning Consortium**, was designed to help academic leaders with the Mid-Cycle Evaluation component of the accreditation process. Representatives from 11

colleges in the Northwest region participated.

- Thirty-seven FVCC students were recently inducted into the **Alpha Iota Pi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa**, an international honors society. Phi Theta Kappa applicants must have earned at least 12 college credits last semester with a minimum grade point average of 3.4 in order to be considered for membership.
- FVCC students **Scott Barnes, Rhonda Doan, Christina Nelson, Ellie Scheulen and Molly Whitewater Stroupe** were named spring 2016 recipients of **Whitefish Credit Union's Community Pride Scholarships**. The students received scholarships totaling \$1300 to apply toward their expenses this semester.
- FVCC employees **John and Jerri Balsam** recently returned from a three-week trip to Southeast Asia sponsored in part by the **U.S. State Department's Professional Fellows Program** and FVCC. John was awarded a Professional Fellows Program grant administered through the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana to meet with economic developers and entrepreneurs in Myanmar and Cambodia.
- The **FVCC Institutional Advancement** office launched the **new FVCC web site** in January. The new site features a fresh, inviting and professional design; a simple-to-use navigation system that makes it easier for users to find what they are looking for; a fully responsive design that can be used seamlessly across all devices from desktop to tablet to cell phone; and many more new features designed to give the users a pleasant web browsing experience.
- **The Foundation at FVCC** recently announced **awards totaling \$48,520** to FVCC faculty and staff for **innovative projects that shift learning experiences** and for **student travel to national and regional conferences for competitions and to present research**. Thanks to one of these grants, students from the electrical technology, agriculture and heavy equipment operator programs will collaborate on a solar energy installation project this spring.
- The **Foundation at FVCC** is celebrating the **40th anniversary** of its founding with a series of commemorative events scheduled throughout 2016.
- The FVCC Theatre Arts Department opened the 2016 season with a production of Stephen Metcalfe's love story, "Strange Snow" in February. Professional local actors **Nick and Rebecca Spear** were joined on stage by FVCC Associate Professor of Theatre **Rich Haptonstall** in this three-person play. All proceeds from the event went toward scholarships for FVCC theatre students.
- The FVCC Art Department hosted an artist's reception for **ceramicist Troy Case** on February 12. A selection of Case's multi-media sculptures are on display in the FVCC art gallery until March 15.

- FVCC ceramics students displayed their contemporary twists on the 2,200-year-old **Chinese Terracotta Army** in an art exhibition on campus from January 20 to February 11.
- The FVCC Music Department kicked off its **Spring Concert Series** January 29 with performances by faculty members **Wai Mizutani** and **Idara Aguinaga**. The Spring Concert Series continued February 12 with a performance by folk musician **Chuck Suchy**. All concerts in the series are free and open to the public.
- The FVCC **Continuing Education** Department's spring course schedule is now available in a new user-friendly, clickable format on the college's web site.