

DATE: August 21, 2024

TO: Board of Regents

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

RE: Campus Report for the September 2024 Board of Regents' Meeting

- FVCC honored community volunteer and longtime FVCC supporter Lucy Smith with the 2024 Eagle Award on June 18 at the annual President's Circle dinner. Since 1990, the Eagle Award has been given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the community as well as to the development of FVCC.
 - <https://dailyinterlake.com/news/2024/jul/26/fvcc-honors-lucy-smith-with-eagle-award/>
- FVCC's Culinary Institute of Montana welcomed a new Executive Chef, Andy Blanton. Chef Blanton, five-time James Beard Award "Best Chef" semifinalist, joins FVCC after gaining over two decades of local and national acclaim as the former owner and Executive Chef of Café Kandahar in Whitefish.
 - <https://flatheadbeacon.com/2024/06/25/james-beard-award-nominated-chef-to-take-on-executive-role-at-fvccs-culinary-institute/>
- FVCC was selected as one of 18 nationwide recipients this year to join the prestigious Metallica Scholars Initiative. This honor comes with a generous \$75,000 grant aimed to support FVCC occupational trades students: each returning student this fall will receive \$200 to help reach their educational goals.
 - <https://dailyinterlake.com/news/2024/jul/31/flathead-valley-community-college-added-to-metallica-scholars-initiative/>
- Wachholz College Center welcomed renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma in August. Ma delivered a captivating show to a sold-out audience in McClaren Hall. Kalispell was Ma's sole stop in Montana on his current world tour, marking his first visit to the state in nearly 20 years.
 - <https://flatheadbeacon.com/2024/08/11/yo-yo-ma-wows-audience-in-rare-montana-performance-at-wachholz-college-center-in-kalispell/>
- FVCC's Surveying Associate of Applied Science program has made a significant transition to a fully online format. The updated program combines online instruction with in-person labs facilitated by licensed surveyors located in the students' geographical area, providing comprehensive preparation for entry-level positions in the field of land surveying.

- The Gene Haas Foundation awarded FVCC a \$20,000 grant to support scholarships. These scholarships will be awarded to students who are currently enrolled in FVCC Industrial Machine Technology CNC programs at both FVCC campuses in Kalispell and Libby.
- FVCC honored 75 Adult Education graduates in June at the Wachholz College Center. Graduates completed programs in High School Equivalency Test Preparation or English as a Second Language to help build skills to enter college, training programs, or the workforce.
- FVCC received a \$5,000 grant from the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund to support the college's Heavy Equipment Operator program with upgrading its belly dump trailer. The trailer allows FVCC's Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) students to train for on-the-job scenarios hauling gravel, dirt and the like that they might encounter in their careers.
 - <https://nbcmontana.com/newsletter-daily/f-06-29-2024>
- FVCC celebrated its latest class of Physical Therapist Assistant graduates in July. Students can complete the program in three semesters after completing prerequisite coursework. After passing the licensure exam approved by the Montana Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, graduates are eligible to work under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist.
- FVCC launched the campaign, "But First...FAFSA" to promote the importance of filing a FAFSA and help students find the information they need to apply or check their application status at fvcc.edu/fafsa. FVCC received funding from the Department of Education to help increase FAFSA participation this fall.