

DATE: December 17, 2025

TO: Board of Regents

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

RE: Campus Report for the January 2026 Board of Regents' Meeting

- FVCC's nursing program honored its current classes of 12 Associate of Science in Nursing graduates and 10 practical nursing graduates during a traditional pinning ceremony in December.
- Twenty-six students presented at the FVCC Honors Student Research Conference in December in both poster and oral presentations. The conference is an opportunity for Honors Program students and students performing undergraduate research to present their findings to the campus and community at-large.
- FVCC Foundation's 18th annual Grand Wine Tasting event welcomed more than 400 guests for gourmet foods, fine wines, a fast-paced live auction and a program focused on expanding student scholarship support. The event raised more than \$250,000, providing a full year of college for more than 40 students.
 - <https://dailyinterlake.com/news/2025/nov/23/foundations-grand-wine-tasting-raises-more-than-250k-for-scholarships/>
- FVCC's Nursing program hosted 50 Glacier High School students for an "Anatomy & Physiology (A&P) Student for a Day" field trip, featuring a lecture from nursing program faculty followed by hands-on practical learning in the A&P lab with current radiologic technology students.
- FVCC hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Wachholz Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (WIEC), welcoming community members for a fireside chat with WIEC Director Eric Harry and Two Bear Capital's Liz Marchi to showcase the center's mission and upcoming programming.
 - <https://dailyinterlake.com/news/2025/nov/02/flathead-valley-community-college-launches-wachholz-innovation-and-entrepreneurship-center-to-support-future-leaders/>
- FVCC's Culinary Institute of Montana hosted two "Modernist Dinners" inspired by America's most influential chefs under the guidance of FVCC Executive Chef Andy Blanton. The "East Coast Evening" and "West Coast Evening" allowed students to showcase their professional artistry by crafting inspired menus based on celebrated cuisines, from plant-forward innovation to farm-to-table philosophy.

- The Wachholz College Center's Wanda Hollensteiner Art Gallery welcomed a new exhibition, "Small Worlds," made possible through the loan of items from private collections and from Polson Flathead Lake Museum. The exhibition features a variety of puppets and marionettes, including a collection of antique Sicilian "Opera dei Pupi," or Indonesian shadow puppets, and a collection of hand-made marionettes of the members of the Lewis and Clark expedition.
- Two FVCC students have earned statewide and national recognition this year for their outstanding achievements in creative work and community service:
 - Lillyan Johnson was selected for publication in the 31st edition of Phi Theta Kappa's (PTK) *Nota Bene* Literary and Visual Arts Honors Anthology for her piece, "The Wooden Battle." *Nota Bene* is PTK's premier literary publication, showcasing top creative work from honor society students across the nation.
 - FVCC Logger Sports team captain Blaine Shaw received the 2025 Montana Athletes in Service Award. Presented annually by the Montana Campus Network for Civic Engagement, the award recognizes student-athletes who model leadership through service, balancing athletic and academic commitments while making a meaningful difference in their communities.
- FVCC Health Sciences hosted "Hooked on Healthcare" in November, a career exploration event, welcoming 130 local high school students for hands-on tours and interactive demonstrations. Attendees experienced an anatomy lab designed to spark interest in high-demand health careers and strengthen the regional workforce pipeline.