

## Memorandum

**To:** Board of Regents

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

**Re:** May Campus Report

**Date:** May 1, 2009

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- The Corporation for National and Community Service honored Flathead Valley Community College February 9 with a place on the **President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll** for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities. During the 2007-2008 academic year, 314 FVCC students provided more than 5,400 volunteer community service hours. FVCC was one of six schools in the nation honored with Presidential Awards.
- FVCC experienced enrollment growth this spring with a **20.5 percent increase in FTE** and an **11 percent increase in headcount**. The dramatic increase is a result of the recently dislocated workers in the area who are attending FVCC for retraining and an increase in traditional age students. The college has partnered with Flathead Job Service to advise dislocated workers on education and training opportunities. FVCC accounts for 25 percent of the enrollment growth within the Montana University System this spring.
- **The Scholars Program at Flathead Valley Community College** that will debut this fall hosted an open house for the community March 23 in the new Scholars Program Center on the FVCC campus. The program will offer motivated and highly capable students a more extensive perspective on topics by incorporating two or more disciplines into seminar style classes. The program will provide graduates with a seamless transition into either the Davidson Honors College at The University of Montana or the Honors Program at Montana State University.
- FVCC held its 17<sup>th</sup> annual **Honors Symposium** this spring. The free lecture series featured a wide spectrum of viewpoints from Asian experts who addressed topics relating to this year's theme: "China's Place in the World." Over 1,100 community members attended the six-part series.
- FVCC hosted the **2009 Northwest Montana State High School Business Professionals of America Conference** March 8-10. Approximately 1,130 students from more than 100 high schools from across the state, Montana Tech and FVCC competed in the conference. The conference consisted of over 50 competitions in a variety of business subjects. Top finalists were invited to participate in the 2009 Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference in Dallas May 6-10.

- **Plum Creek Timber Company** awarded a **\$60,000 grant and loaned equipment** to FVCC to enhance the Occupational Trades programs during a special presentation March 24. The award and loan were presented in response to the college's need for new equipment and resources due to the significant increase in enrollment and the high number of dislocated workers coming to the college for retraining.
- FVCC Economics Instructor and Director, Center for Business and Economic Research **Dr. Gregg Davis** addressed the Flathead Valley recession on "**Montana Focus,**" a program that aired on Montana PBS in March and April. The program tackles issues across the state relating to politics and government, natural resources, business development and social changes.
- Flathead Valley Community College welcomed its **largest group of new Phi Theta Kappa members** during the international honor society's spring induction ceremony March 18. **Sixty-one FVCC students** were inducted into the Alpha Iota Pi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa by PTK President Bryan Sawyer.
- The FVCC Multicultural Affairs program hosted an **End of Winter Gathering Hand-Drum Competition and Hoop Dance Exhibit** March 27. College and community members gathered to watch a Navajo hoop dancer and one-man hand-drum singer competition and peruse a Native American arts and crafts fair. Eleven competitors from communities ranging from Arlee to Browning competed for cash prizes.
- The FVCC Service Learning Office and Campus Corps team hosted their annual **Seussville University**, a celebration of Dr. Seuss that promotes literacy, April 3. Activities included art, music, math, storytelling and a theatre production. Approximately 250 third grade students from area elementary schools participated in the event.
- FVCC's **Logger Sports Team** placed first at its home competition, **Stumpjumper Days**, April 18. Students from The University of Montana, University of Idaho and FVCC competed in events including the axe throw, horizontal hard hit chop, obstacle pole buck, single buck and bonzaii logger. The team will conclude its season providing demonstrations for the community at the Family Forestry Expo in Columbia Falls May 9 and 10.
- Flathead Valley Community College hosted the fifth annual **College Goal Sunday**, a program that provides students who want to attend college and their families the opportunity to obtain assistance in applying for financial aid, February 22. FVCC's Financial Aid staff assisted 78 individuals in completing Free Applications for Federal Student Aid.
- FVCC was one of many sponsors of the third annual **Employment Exploration Expo** March 26. FVCC, along with 80 other area employers, educators, training organizations and service providers, participated in "The "Biggest Employment Event in the Flathead Valley." According to an article published in the *Daily Inter Lake*, more than 8,000 individuals attended the free event.

- FVCC celebrated **National TRIO Day** February 25. The event featured awards, a panel of students who shared their personal TRIO success stories and information about the four TRIO programs at FVCC.
- The **FVCC Art Department** hosted an **open house** for college students, their friends and families and community members March 5. The free event featured raku firing, pottery, drawing and jewelry demonstrations by art faculty and students; faculty, face jug and teapot design exhibitions; and a drawing installation.
- **FVCC Theatre**'s production, "**Grease**," broke records for with 13 performances and its first hearing impaired cast member. The company is wrapping up its spring season with the production of "See How They Run," and a musical review to raise money for scholarships.
- FVCC instructor and archaeologist **Dr. E.B. Eiselein**, in conjunction with the FVCC Multicultural Affairs Office, presented a six-part "**Armchair Archaeology**" series for FVCC students and the community this spring. Lecture topics ranged from ancient Egypt to the Harappan Civilization of Pakistan.
- The FVCC Green Team has teamed up with numerous local organizations to host a three-part **Earth Day celebration**. More than 400 community members participated in activities including free showings of the Montana premiere of the Sundance Film Festival award-winning documentary, "FUEL," a Q&A session with the film's executive producer Janet Morrow, the Re-powering the Flathead for a New Energy Economy Conference, the Green-Energy-Green Building Tour and an earth day fair.
- The FVCC Student Government hosted its fifth annual **Battle of the Bands** April 17. The event provided FVCC students and area high school students with a fun evening of entertainment in a safe, drug and alcohol-free environment while helping raise awareness of local bands by furthering their local exposure and assisting them in establishing connections with one another. Seven local bands competed in the event.
- The Alpha Iota Pi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at FVCC hosted a **Mini-Relay for Life** to generate a campus-wide awareness of cancer, raise money for the American Cancer Society and support friends who may have been deeply affected by cancer. Approximately 60 walkers and 10 volunteers consisting of FVCC students, employees and student organizations participated in the event on April 29.