

Memorandum

To: Board of Regents

From: Jane Karas, President
Flathead Valley Community College

Re: September Campus Report

Date: August 28, 2009

- FVCC welcomes its first class of student scholars this fall. The class, consisting of 23 students, is the first to be accepted into the **Scholars Program at Flathead Valley Community College**. The new program will provide students opportunities to experience academically rigorous cross-disciplinary honors colloquia as well as a **seamless transition** to either the **Davidson Honors College** at The University of Montana or the **Honors Program at Montana State University**.
- Welding instructors from across the state gathered at FVCC in June to begin the process of achieving standardization of the American Welding Society career programs. Twenty-four high school instructors and four college instructors participated in phase one of the **American Welding Society (AWS) Certified Welding Educator (CWE) qualifications course** conducted by FVCC on behalf of the Montana Peaks to Plains Consortium. The program aligns high school curriculum with the curriculum of postsecondary institutions, resulting in common course outcomes being taught in both high school and college classrooms. The program will ensure high school students will progress into college welding programs and will provide them opportunities to complete their initial welder certification.
- **Summer enrollment** at FVCC spiked **45.6 percent** from the previous summer with a total of **410.5 FTE**. **Headcount** jumped **27.9 percent** from last summer with a total of **998 students**.
- Ten students participated in FVCC's third annual **Peru cultural immersion program** August 7-21. The students earned up to 12 college credits while participating in a number of activities including exploring significant Inca ruins, visiting Indian Artisan market, sightseeing in the city of Cusco, touring Machu Picchu, staying in a local home on Lake Titicaca and visiting Lima, Peru's capitol.
- FVCC **placed first** in the adult fair parade category and won "**Best in Show**" in the **Northwest Montana Fair Parade** with its float themed "FVCC or Bust." FVCC alumni, employees and their families constructed the float and participated in the parade.
- Governor Brian Schweitzer partnered with the Governor's Institute on Community Design to host the "**Working Forests, Managing Communities**" **Conference** June 18 at FVCC. The free event provided community members and Montana residents the opportunity to voice their concerns and participate in a discussion on the critically important issues facing Montana as development continues.

- FVCC has joined **GreenWood Resources** to conduct a field trial to identify elite varieties of **poplar trees** well as **provide a venue for research and teaching**. The objective of the five-year study is to determine which varieties are adapted to the environment of Kalispell and which ones are likely to produce the largest amount of biomass when deployed to mono-varietal plantations. FVCC students and volunteers planted **1,292 poplar trees** consisting of **94 varieties** for a test site on the FVCC campus which is comprised of .96 acres. FVCC students in the Natural Resources and Conservation program, Service Learning program and statistics classes are involved in the project. FVCC is one of 13 test sites in the western United States and the only test site in Montana.
- FVCC honored the **248 General Education Development diploma recipients** who passed the GED exam during the 2008-2009 academic year at a graduation ceremony on June 16. Paraprofessional Career Counselor Charlene Herron served as keynote speaker.
- The FVCC Foundation will blast off its **Festival of Flavors** fundraising event September 24 with an evening featuring **Chef James Monroe**, creator of the **Bubba Burger** and first-runner up of the Ultimate Hometown Grill Off sponsored by Live! With Regis and Kelly. The 10-day event will **feature** some of the **Valley's finest chefs** and will culminate with a **grand wine tasting event offering over 100 hundred of choice wines to sample**.
- Flathead Valley Community College graduated its **41st class** May 15 during the college's **spring 2009 commencement**. FVCC awarded 209 degrees and certificates to 194 students from both the Kalispell and Lincoln County Campuses. The awards consisted of 126 Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees, 52 Associate of Applied Science degrees and 31 certificates. Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Eric Pei, Visiting Professor from Liaoning University in Shenyang, China, served as keynote speaker. During the ceremony, FVCC President Dr. Jane Karas presented the fourth annual **President's Mentor Award** to **Salish Kootenai College President Dr. Joseph McDonald**. The award was created to honor a community leader who every day inspires us with their leadership, vision, integrity and passion and exemplifies the meaning of mentor.
- FVCC announced the results from a study on the college's impact on the regional economy conducted by EMSI in October 2008. Flathead and Lincoln Counties receive roughly **\$113.5 million in regional income annually** due to the impact of FVCC and its students. That figure has more than doubled from nearly \$50 million when the last study was completed in October 2005. The study also revealed that students receive a **17 percent return on their investment** in education.
- FVCC President Jane Karas launched her eighth annual **Community Conversations** May 11 at the FVCC Kalispell campus. The conversations provide Karas the opportunity to share the college's role in the local economy and its present and future activities, but especially allow the community to share how the college is meeting and can better meet their needs. During May and June, Karas hosted a total of nine conversations throughout the FVCC service region from Eureka to Polson.
- FVCC has partnered with **University of Great Falls** and **The University of Montana** to provide Flathead Valley residents opportunities to earn bachelor's degrees without having to leave the Valley. Through the new 2 + 2 program with the University of Great Falls, community members can earn **bachelor's degrees in criminal justice** with a concentration in law enforcement, corrections or forensic investigation, and through the new 2 + 2 program with The University of Montana, residents can earn

bachelor's degrees in social work. FVCC teamed up with both universities to hold open houses offering information and opportunities to meet with college and university officials.

- On May 14, Flathead Valley Community College President Jane Karas presented **Board of Trustees Chairman John D. Engebretson** with the college's prestigious **Eagle Award** for the 2008-2009 academic year at the annual President's Donor Dinner attended by nearly 140 guests. The award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to FVCC. Engebretson has served on the college's Board of Trustees for 18 years and has served as Board chairman for nine terms. Karas recognized Engebretson's wisdom and knowledge as valuable resources to many FVCC presidents and trustees as the college grew from a new campus with four buildings on 40 acres in 1990 to a 209-acre campus with seven state-of-the-art facilities.
- Four FVCC students were named summer 2009 recipients of **Whitefish Credit Union's Community Pride Scholarships**. **Rachael Ashby, Ann Chef, Brittany Seubert** and **Rachael Knox** received \$400 scholarship awards for the summer semester.
- The FVCC Foundation hosted 622 guests at the **spring and summer tours of the Bibler Home and Gardens** in May and July, **generating \$7,419** to fund the FVCC student scholarship program. The summer tours kicked off with a special event featuring a wine reception and an exclusive tour of the Bibler's collection of fine art presented by **FVCC Art Instructor John Rawlings**.