

Memorandum

To: Board of Regents

From: Jane Karas, President
Flathead Valley Community College

Re: November Campus Report

Date: October 22, 2010

- FVCC President **Jane Karas** attended the first-ever **White House Summit on Community Colleges** October 5. Dr. Karas was selected to share her perspective during the summit highlighting the critical role community colleges play in developing America's workforce and educational goals. Dr. Jill Biden served as chair of the summit which brought together community colleges, businesses, philanthropy, federal and state policy leaders and students.
- FVCC President **Jane Karas**, Biology Instructor **Dr. Ruth Wrightsman**, and Natural Resources Instructor **Dr. Christina Relyea** were presented a **2010 AT&T Technology & Environment Award** in the amount of \$25,000 by AT&T Montana President **Adam Gryzbicki** at the college's September Board of Trustees meeting. The grant will fund research to investigate the impact of information and communications technology on the study and management of wolves in northwestern Montana. FVCC is one of three colleges nationwide that received the award.
- Chemistry and Mathematics Instructor **Dr. Janice Alexander** traveled to South Africa October 10. She is one of 16 faculty members across the nation who will be visiting the region to evaluate how the higher education system works and the challenges within the system.
- Ceramics Instructor **David Smith** was published in the September/October 2010 issue of *Pottery Making Illustrated*, the leading ceramic art magazine in the United States. Smith's works can also be seen in more than half a dozen art shows throughout the country each year.
- FVCC engineering student **Andrew Crawford** won first place in the **NASA Mars Rover Design Contest**, winning him an invitation to spend a week at the NASA Houston Space in October. During his time in Houston, Andrew's team won first place. Andrew also received a scholarship from the **Montana Space Grant Consortium**, a component of NASA's National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.
- FVCC Art Instructor **Rob Akey** was one of three artists who participated in the **2009 Artist-Wilderness-Connection program**, a cooperative artist-in-residence program that connects Montana artists and local communities with local wild lands. Selected artists spend time in a remote forest cabin on the Flathead National Forest to focus on their art, and after completing their residency, artists share their talents and residency experience with the community and donate a representative piece of their art to the program. On September 14 at FVCC, the Flathead National Forest, Hockaday Museum of Art,

Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation and the Swan Ecosystem Center hosted a reception and presentation by all participating artists.

- **The Scholars Program at FVCC** welcomed **27 new students** during an induction ceremony September 15. The program, now in its second year, is comprised of 40 students including 13 returning students. Program Director and Psychology Instructor **Ivan Lorentzen** was honored at the Association of Community College Trustees Leadership Congress October 20-23 in Toronto, Canada, for winning **ACCT Faculty Member of the Year for the western region**.
- In celebration of **American Indian Heritage Week**, FVCC's Multicultural Affairs Office hosted a series of free events for the community inside a teepee assembled for the celebration on the college campus. **Mardell Plainfeather** of Crow Agency, Blackfeet Nation member **Daron Lime** and Salish writer and poet **Victor A. Charlo** were among the presenters of the week-long event.
- **Chef's Table** returned September 17 for its fourth season featuring 14 new FVCC culinary arts students delivering exceptional cuisine, service and entertainment to patrons. The program enables first-year students to complete their first-year culinary arts internships while showcasing their skills and talents to community members and visitors to the Valley. Patrons who attend Chef's Table enjoy light hors d'oeuvres followed by a three-course dinner prepared and presented by the students. This season, the program began incorporating local homegrown dairy, produce and meats into their menus as well as featuring seasonal fresh vegetables from the state of Washington, fresh Alaskan fish and special additions from France.
- FVCC Art Instructors **Wendy Orr** and Karen **Chesna-McNeil** joined 42 other folk and traditional artists from across Montana October 16-18 in Great Falls for the **Artist Gathering 2010**. The event provided the artists an opportunity to share their art with the public, network with each other and learn more about the business of art from experts in New York City's Creative Capital group.
- The **Smokin' Hot Grillfriends** championship barbeque team helped kick off the Flathead Valley Community College Foundation's **Festival of Flavors 2010** fundraising event October 7. The tailgate-themed kick-off event featured the Smokin' Hot Grillfriends award-winning barbeque along with special performances by **Miss Montana Kacie West**, a Montana State University student, and The University of Montana mascot **Monte**. The 10-day festival comprised of 12 events highlighted nine of the Flathead Valley's finest chefs and FVCC culinary arts students and culminated with a grand wine tasting event October 16. Proceeds from all events will support FVCC student scholarships and programs.
- FVCC hosted the **2010 Building Engaged Citizens Conference**, an annual training event for individuals affiliated with the Montana Campus Compact and its programs, September 24-26. **Approximately 120 Campus Corps members** from throughout the state gathered at FVCC to network and participate in skills training. Participants joined in a number of service projects throughout the Flathead Valley such as installing vapor barrier house wrap for the Mutual Self Help Housing Project and sorting clothing and making food boxes for the 11th Annual Stand Down for the Northwest Montana Veterans Food Pantry.
- FVCC welcomed *Montana Magazine's* **Rick and Susan Graetz** for a presentation they delivered on Montana's Rocky Mountain Front Bob Marshall Wilderness for the community October 13. Sponsored

by the FVCC Continuing Education Center, their lecture was part of The University of Montana outreach program.

- To celebrate culture and diversity, FVCC's Multicultural Affairs Office hosted **Cultural Week** comprised of a series of free events for the community during the week of October 4. Activities included participating college departments and student organizations hosting various countries throughout the world for students to obtain passport stamps and free lectures for students and the community. The keynote presenter was performer of traditional mask dancing and mask carver **Made Surya** of Bali, Indonesia. During his visit, Made taught various continuing education classes including Balinese mask carving, Balinese cooking and performing with masks: Balinese mask dance.
- The FVCC Continuing Education Center sponsored the free Crown of the Continent lecture, "**An Appetite for the Country: Coming into the Flathead, 1800-1830**" for the community September 21. Presented by Spokane-based author, teacher and naturalist **Jack Nisbet**, the free lecture highlighted Nisbet's most recent book, *The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest*, which was named by the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association as one of its Books of the Year in 2010.
- The FVCC Art Club welcomed visiting artist **Dennis Sipiorski** to the FVCC campus during the week of October 4. During his visit, Sipiorski presented demonstrations to ceramics classes and a free presentation for the community October 7. Sipiorski is a photographer, painter and potter and serves as an art professor at Southeastern Louisiana University.
- FVCC Political Science Instructor **Jeremy Fritz** presented a free lecture, "How You Can Make a Difference," for the community September 29. Sponsored by the college's Continuing Education Center and Student Teams for Election Assistance in Montana (STEAM) program, Fritz's presentation explored the resources within the political system available to those who are motivated for change. Local candidates and Flathead County election officials were present to address questions and welcome comments.
- U.S. Representative **Denny Rehberg** hosted one of three public hearings on the impacts of relisting gray wolves under the Endangered Species Act at Flathead Valley Community College October 6. The panel, hosted by Rehberg, welcomed questions and discussion from the audience.
- The **FVCC Community Garden** was one of three sites in Kalispell that benefited from the "**Flathead Global Work Party**," one of more than 4,400 community-based work parties supporting climate change held in 174 countries on October 10. Projects at the garden included spreading compost and planting native plants and fruit trees. Following the projects, participants convened at FVCC to enjoy a free dinner consisting of local foods followed by a presentation by **retired Montana State University chemistry professor Eric Grimsrud** and a live performance by local indie-rock band Sick Pony.
- FVCC was awarded a **Community-Based Job Training Grant** in the amount of **\$2,951,196** from the U.S. Department of Labor. The grant will fund the college's "Strengthening the Regional Nursing and Emergency Workforce" project. The three-year project will funnel unemployed, incumbent and dislocated workers into a comprehensive health care career ladder training program.

- FVCC President Jane Karas hosted her ninth annual **Community Conversations** in May and June. The conversations provide Karas the opportunity to present information on the college's activities and allow the community to share how the college is meeting and can better meet their needs. Karas hosted a total of nine conversations throughout the FVCC service region from Eureka to Polson.
- FVCC English Instructor **Lowell Jaeger** received national recognition May 26. Celebrated radio personality **Garrison Keillor** read one of Jaeger's poems from his new book, *We*, on National Public Radio's show, "**The Writer's Almanac.**" Jaeger also recently compiled *New Poets of the American West*, an anthology of poets from the western United States.
- Four FVCC students were named summer 2010 recipients of **Whitefish Credit Union's Community Pride Scholarships**. **Alesia LaRoque, Mike Paulson, James Boer** and **Holli Rose** received \$400 scholarship awards for the summer semester. Then this fall, FVCC students **Jennifer Quien, Thomas Ashcraft** and **Ryan Stolte** received scholarships totaling \$1,500 for the fall 2010 semester.
- This fall, **jewelry design and manufacturing students** at FVCC began having access to **new cutting edge technologies**. FVCC has added **Matrix**, a CAD/CAM jewelry design software, and **Revo-C**, an updated computer numerical control (CNC) mill, to continue its leadership in providing students the opportunity to learn in a high tech environment while providing them access to the most advanced and most widely used equipment in the jewelry design and manufacturing industry.
- FVCC welcomed **South African Master Painter Ryno Swart** on campus in August. In addition to Swart conducting a five-day workshop, the college hosted a free exhibition of his works and a kick-off reception inviting the community on campus to meet the master artist, one of South Africa's most accomplished premiere oil painters.
- Instructors from FVCC, Montana State University-Northern, Montana State University-College of Technology Great Falls and University of Montana-College of Technology Missoula joined forces on the FVCC campus in July to team-teach a week-long course for Montana high school welding teachers. The training, which provides **American Welding Society (AWS) certification**, increases the knowledge and skill set of high school welding instructors across Montana and prepares participants to become Certified Welder Educators (CWE) and Certified Welding Instructors (CWI).
- FVCC has been recognized by G.I. Jobs as one of 1,220 colleges and universities in the nation to make its **2011 Military Friendly Schools list**. The list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools which are doing the most to embrace America's veterans as students. The list was compiled through exhaustive research involving 7,000 schools nationwide.