

Memorandum

To: Board of Regents

From: Jane Karas, President
Flathead Valley Community College

Re: November 2012 Campus Report

Date: October 19, 2012

- FVCC has been awarded **two federal grants** totaling **\$3,652,969** to **develop and expand innovative training programs to enhance job training in Northwest Montana**. The grants are part of the **Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Community College and Career Training initiative** which promotes skills development and employment opportunities through partnerships between training providers and local employers. FVCC is one of 297 schools across the nation to be awarded \$500 million in community college grants implemented and administered by the **U.S. Department of Labor** in coordination with the **U.S. Department of Education**.
- FVCC commemorated its **45th anniversary** during a special celebration August 30. The community and current FVCC students and alumni were invited to join college faculty, staff, administration and trustees for the event featuring complimentary cake, ice cream and live performances by music faculty **Amy Chisholm** and **Karla West**.
- FVCC hosted the **two-year education summer retreat** August 6 and 7. Discussion focused on the **21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges** report and how to incorporate some of those goals and recommendations into what two-year colleges are doing in Montana. A speaker from American Association of Community Colleges presented information on the **Voluntary Framework of Accountability pilot project**, in which FVCC was one of the participating colleges, which helps identify the best ways to measure community college success.
- FVCC served as the Northwest Montana venue for a number of local, state and national political events in October. Events included a **Montana U.S. Senate debate** with Senator Jon Tester, Congressman Denny Rehberg and Mr. Dan Cox; a **Montana gubernatorial debate** with Rick Hill and Steve Bullock; and three **community candidate forums** featuring candidates running for local and county office.
- 3D jewelry design student **Deanna Campsall**, under the instruction of **Karen Kolar**, won **first place** in the **Gemvision Design Symposium international jewelry design contest**. Deanna will receive a \$500 check for her prize-winning design.

- FVCC held a **dedication ceremony** October 1 for its **new ceramic mural** located on an outside wall of the college's Arts and Technology Building. Under the direction of Mathematics Instructor **Don Hicketier** and Ceramics Instructor **David Smith**, the mural was designed by the **23 Scholars Program students** in the spring 2011 Fine Arts and Mathematics honors class. The mural is based on the Fibonacci theorem and consists of over 200 ceramic tiles that spiral toward each other to a common center combining the representations of art and technology. In addition, Smith was one of a dozen artists invited to participate in the **2012 Contemporary Clay Invitational** in Farmville, Va., October 5 through December 15.
- The Flathead Valley Community College Foundation's **Festival of Flavors 2012** fundraising event was a tremendous success. The 10-day festival, comprised of 14 events, highlighted 10 of the **Flathead Valley's finest chefs** including **students of The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC** and their instructors **Chef Hillary Ginepra** and **Chef Howard Karp**, and culminated with a grand wine tasting event. The festival kicked off with a fall harvest farmers market featuring a special performance by FVCC's **Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Karl Rangikawhiti Leonard** of New Zealand who performed a fighting stick demonstration, a Poi demonstration and a solo Haka war dance.
- FVCC welcomed **more than 90 Montana Artrepreneurship Preparation Program artists** from across Montana for the **2012 Montana Artists Gathering** September 28 and 29. The event, featuring a showcase and sale of participating artists' works, opened with a welcoming reception hosted by the **FVCC Art Department** and sponsored by **Parkside Federal Credit Union**.
- Physics Instructor **Jim Boger** was appointed to the **Montana Space Grant Consortium Technical Advisory Committee**. The group reviews the strategies and larger grants related to space work across Montana.
- FVCC hosted the statewide **Computer Science Summit** this summer. Computer Science Instructor **Nick Thiel** is working with Montana State University on increasing the Montana State University computer science presence in Kalispell.
- Flathead Valley residents were given the rare opportunity to observe a master class taught by **elite Jazz musicians Erica von Kleist** and **Don Caverly**. The event was free and open to the public and was presented during **FVCC's Jazz Ensemble** class instructed by **Sky Thoreson**.
- **The Scholars Program at FVCC** welcomed **21 new students** during an induction ceremony September 19. **Ivan Lorentzen**, Scholars Program director; **Brenda Hanson**, dean of students; **Dr. James McKusick**, dean of the Davidson Honors College at The University of Montana; and **Mark Holston**, FVCC trustee, addressed the students during the ceremony.
- The FVCC Art Department welcomed to its campus a selection from the **Red Cloud Heritage Center Collection** featuring over four decades of Native American contemporary paintings. The community was invited to attend the exhibition's opening ceremony featuring an opening

blessing and special performances by Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence **Karl Rangikawhiti Leonard and his family**. The show consists of 37 paintings selected by Leonard and Art Department Director **John Rawlings**.

- **FVCC's Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Karl Rangikawhiti Leonard** of New Zealand launched a **three-part community lecture series on New Zealand's Maori people** with a presentation on the history and migration of the Maori people. The fall series will continue with a presentation on the development of Maori weaving and conclude with a lecture on the art of Maori dance.
- The **FVCC AmeriCorps Office** partnered with the **Kalispell Vet Center** to pay tribute to local veterans in honor of the **September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance**. Each participating veteran received a free car wash and a \$25 gas card. Also in September, the FVCC AmeriCorps Office participated in the **9/11 Tribute Movement "The Great Rollout"** by collecting toiletries to help provide much needed relief for veterans that rely on the Northwest Montana Food Pantry, Samaritan House and the local veterans clinics for assistance.
- The FVCC Multicultural Affairs Office hosted a number of free events for the community this fall. Special guests and events included Tibetan Monk **Gochen Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche** who delivered a presentation on the **Ewam Garden** in Arlee; a fry bread tasting and lecture in celebration of **American Indian Heritage Day**; visiting monks **Thich Chan Phap Hai** and **Phap Nhat** from the Deer Park Monastery in Escondido, Calif. who led a sitting meditation and delivered a presentation; and Dakota (Sioux) descendant **Jeremy Red Eagle** who delivered a presentation about the **Dakota War of 1862** in remembrance of its upcoming 150th anniversary,
- Flathead Valley Community College Theatre welcomed Missoula theatre company **Bear Bait Dance** for the company's first tour stop to the Flathead Valley. Bare Bait Dance's production of "**On Grandma's Porch**," sponsored by FVCC Theatre and Student Government, opened FVCC Theatre's fall season and was performed twice for the Flathead Valley community free of charge.