

Memorandum

To: Board of Regents

From: Jane Karas, President
Flathead Valley Community College

Re: September 2014 Campus Report

Date: August 22, 2014

- The Flathead Valley Community College Foundation received a **\$1 million gift** to establish a new endowment, providing scholarships for Montanans with need to attend FVCC. **James “Jim” Daley**, 96, and his late wife, **Doris Monk Daley**, established the **James and Doris Monk Daley Endowed Scholarship Fund** at FVCC to provide opportunities for Montanans to attend college who otherwise would not be able to without scholarship support.
- FVCC Art Professor **John Rawlings** has been honored with the **2014 Association of Community College Trustees Faculty of the Year Award for the Western Region**. Rawlings competed for the award against other community college faculty in Montana, Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Wyoming, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska and Canada. Rawlings will travel to Chicago in October to accept his award at the 2014 ACCT Leadership Congress. He also will be one of five faculty members considered for the ACCT National Faculty of the Year Award.
- Eleven FVCC students spent four weeks in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, coaching Brazilian students English through **US-Brazil Connect**, an innovative program founded to build long-term partnerships with Brazil. This was the second consecutive year FVCC participated in the paid fellowship program which aims to strengthen education and build economic opportunities by connecting communities, engaging leaders and creating transformative learning experiences linking the United States and Brazil. **Monica Peterson** and **Taylor Keltner** returned to the program as Senior Fellows to advise and support students **Andrea Kavert, Cierra Stehilk, Jeremiah McKessey, Cindy Conroy, Zoe Glasser-Breeding, Hannah Ruble, Jason Fetveit, Gwendolyn Fratt** and **Siri Wheeler** as they carried out their fellowship duties. Overall, the students spent 20 weeks teaching Brazilian students over social media and on the ground in Brazil. FVCC was one of six participating community colleges, and the students were among over 200 outstanding U.S. college students and young professionals selected to educate 2,000 Brazilian students this summer.
- This summer, FVCC launched a new **Summer Experience** program, offering **local incoming high school juniors and seniors** students a unique new way to earn **free college credits** while providing an authentic college experience. The five-week program consisted of a three-credit

college course, lunch, career exploration, a service project and intramural sports activities. Students selected from two tracks depending on their interests.

- FVCC launched a new two-semester evening **Firearms Technologies Certificate** this fall. A complement to the non-credit gunsmithing program offered in the summer months, the 27-credit program features curriculum developed under the guidance and input from local firearms manufacturers to **support the growing firearms industry in the Flathead Valley and throughout Montana**. FVCC is one of only a few colleges in the nation to offer a program of this kind.
- FVCC graduated its **46th class** May 16 during the college's **spring 2014 commencement**. The college recognized **422 graduates** for completing **431 degrees and certificates** during the 2013-2014 academic year. Daily Inter Lake Publisher and FVCC alumnus **Rick Weaver** served as commencement speaker.
- This fall, FVCC machining students began having the opportunity to earn nationally-recognized **National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) credentials**. The credentials are used by metalworking companies as **standards for recruitment, hiring, job placement and promotion**. The credentials will better prepare students for their next steps, whether the students plan to enter the workforce with new careers or advance in their jobs.
- FVCC launched new **online Certificates of Technical Science** in three different advanced manufacturing programs this fall. The one-semester programs include **electronics technician, machinist technician** and **industrial maintenance**. The online offering of these entry-level programs will benefit students, particularly in rural communities, by preventing the stress of having to relocate to complete these certificates. As part of the **SWAMMEI and TAACCCT grants**, students throughout Montana will be able enroll at their local two-year colleges and access FVCC's online manufacturing programs. FVCC will collaborate with assessment centers in Havre, Helena and Billings to provide students across the state the ability to complete the certificates' hands-on work requirements in their local communities.
- FVCC 3D Jewelry Design Student **Stacey Whitmire** won first place in International Gemvision Design Contest student category, marking the second consecutive year an FVCC student has captured the title. The competition attracts jewelers from all over the globe who use the Matrix design software by Gemvision to create unique pieces of jewelry.
- FVCC practical nursing student **Ryan Pitts** was named a **2014 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow**. The national award recognizes inspiring college student leaders who have worked to find solutions for challenges facing their communities and who demonstrate a personal commitment to creating lasting change to better their communities while making the most of their college experiences. Pitts was among 197 student leaders across the nation honored with the award.

- Four FVCC students traveled to Indianapolis in May for the **Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference** to compete against colleges from across the nation in the Workplace Skills Assessment Program. **Kyle Lathrop, Ashley Olson, Daniel Sutley and Tyler Dailey's** team presentation took **third place overall** in the **Small Business Management** competition. Olson's individual presentation took **third place overall** in the **Ethics** competition.
- FVCC **graduated its second class of physical therapist assistant students** during a special pinning ceremony July 25. **Ten graduates** were recognized for completing the two-year Associate of Applied Science degree program.
- FVCC honored its most recent nursing graduates during two traditional pinning ceremonies this summer. On May 16, **20 practical nursing graduates** were recognized for successfully completing the two-year Associate of Applied Science degree program. On August 7, the college honored **12 registered nursing graduates**.
- FVCC welcomed onto campus Kalispell native, former FVCC student and member of the **U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Major Jason Curtis** for his **first public presentation in Northwest Montana** in conjunction with the Mountain Madness Airshow August 30 and 31. The opposing solo pilot for the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, Curtis spoke of his career, shared a video on the Thunderbirds and discussed the importance of education and opportunities in the fields of math, science and engineering. Additionally, Curtis reflected on his time as an FVCC student and invited students in the audience to ask questions.
- Four FVCC advanced manufacturing students competed in The University of Montana's 25th annual **John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition** May 15. **Tyler Godbold, Kaleb Griep, Nate Peterson and Carol Vincent** presented the development and commercialization of their startup advanced industrial additive-manufacturing (3D) printing system company, **Bold 3D™, LLC**. The students were selected from multiple applicants to compete against 15 other teams from The University of Montana, Montana State University and other higher education institutions. This was the first time FVCC competed in the prestigious competition.
- FVCC welcomed **U.S. Senator Jon Tester** to campus for a **Veterans Affairs public forum** he hosted June 22. More than 100 veterans and their families gathered on the college campus to share their health care stories with the Senator.
- **Colleen Unterreiner**, executive director of institutional advancement at Flathead Valley Community College, was presented the college's prestigious **Eagle Award** for the 2013-2014 academic year by FVCC President Jane Karas during the 19th annual President's Donor Dinner. Unterreiner was presented the award for her leadership as executive director of the FVCC Foundation. She was recognized for her role in taking the Foundation to the next level,

exceeding capital campaign goals, thinking outside the box to continue to improve scholarship fundraising events, building relationships and providing more opportunities for student success.

- FVCC President Jane Karas presented long-time FVCC Foundation Associate Board member **Mary Gibson** with her ninth annual **Montana Mentor Award** at the 2014 FVCC Foundation Summer Social. Mary was recognized for using her gift of vision, leadership and passion to make a difference in the community.
- The FVCC Art Department raised a record **\$22,000** at its fourth annual **Big Night** fundraiser, an event to raise funds for student scholarships for its 2015 Semester in Venice program. The gala featured an Italian-inspired dinner created by **students of The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC** and Executive Chef **Howard Karp**, an Italian-themed live auction, an art exhibit and testimonials of students who have participated in the program.
- Approximately 100 students from FVCC, The University of Montana and Whitefish High School presented research projects during the college's fifth annual spring **Scholars Conference on Student Research**. The event provided participating students the opportunity to present their research, portfolios and projects to members of the community. More than 25 student presentations were delivered and nearly 65 research posters were showcased during the event. The event opened with remarks by **Dr. James McKusick**, dean of the Davidson Honors College at The University of Montana; **Logan Warberg**, presidential scholar at Montana State University; **Dr. Ivan Lorentzen**; director of The Scholars Program at FVCC; and FVCC scholar students **Christian Stratton** and **Michael Selhost**.
- FVCC President Jane Karas hosted her thirteenth annual **Community Conversations** this summer. President Karas traveled to seven communities from Eureka to Lakeside and met with **nearly 90 community members, school officials and legislators**, providing guests with updates on the college and collecting feedback on how the college can better serve the communities of Northwest Montana.
- The FVCC Foundation celebrated its **10th anniversary hosting tours** of the legendary **Bibler Home and Gardens** in Kalispell. The college welcomed **578 guests** at the spring and summer tours in May and July, generating more than **\$6,300** to fund FVCC student scholarship and programs. The spring tours opened with a **Mother's Day champagne brunch**, and the summer tours kicked off with a wine reception with light hors d'oeuvres, both prepared by **students of The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC**. Throughout the 10-year partnership, the tours have raised **approximately \$69,000** to support scholarships and programs at FVCC.
- FVCC students **Tyler Rasmussen, Briahna Bennett, Rachel Just, Michael Selhost, Josh Healy** and **Christian Stratton** traveled to Denver to present their research at the **Western Regional Honors Conference** in April. Healy won **Honorable Mention** for his project on Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease.

- FVCC hosted its first **College Preview Day** for area graduating high school seniors June 17. The free interactive event featured informational sessions on college, financial aid and completing the admissions process. In addition, participants took part in a hands-on class experience, career exploration, lunch and an intramural activity.
- Flathead Valley Community College Theatre presented two **summer theatre** productions, starring many FVCC theatre alumni and newcomers to the stage. “**The Last Days of Judas Iscariot**” was directed by Kalispell native **Blake Shuman**, and FVCC theatre arts alumnus **Joshua Kelly** directed “**The History Boys.**”
- FVCC **Kid’s College** returned this summer, offering 35 week-long, half-day classes for kids of all interests, abilities and grade levels. The program served 218 students and had a total of 329 enrollments. **Grandparents College** returned for its third year, featuring two day-long classes that provided an opportunity for grandparents to participate in hands-on learning activities with their grandchildren or other young relatives.
- FVCC held a graduation ceremony for its **High School Equivalency graduates** June 11. **Nearly 175 graduates** were recognized for completing requirements for the 2013-2014 academic year. The following evening, FVCC’s **Lincoln County Campus** held a ceremony and honored **20 High School Equivalency graduates.**
- FVCC captured the Best Theme trophy and its ninth consecutive first place title for its float entry in the **2014 Northwest Montana Fair Parade.** FVCC students, alumni, employees, family and friends constructed the float and participated in the parade.
- Six FVCC students were named fall 2014 recipients of **Whitefish Credit Union Community Pride Scholarships.** **Kat Champion, Meghan Danford-Komenda, Amber Gunderson, Miranda Leese, Kayleigh Kasper** and **Rebekah Venable** received scholarships totaling **\$2,400** for the fall 2014 semester.