

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 23, 2015

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Jane Karas, Ph.D.
President, Flathead Valley Community College

RE: Campus Report for the January, 2016 Board of Regents' Meeting

- FVCC is among five U.S. community colleges that received grants through **100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund** that will allow for student exchanges with Colombia. The fund is a public-private collaboration of the **White House, U.S. State Department, Partners of the Americas** and **National Association of Foreign Student Advisers: Association of International Educators** which aims to increase study abroad opportunities to U.S. students by 100,000 in order to enhance competitiveness, increase prosperity and prepare a more global workforce. FVCC will collaborate with **SENA Centro de Automatización Industrial** to develop a curriculum using CNC technology with solar energy technology to advance renewable energy solutions.
- FVCC's **surgical technology, practical nursing, registered nursing, physical therapist assistant, paramedicine** and **medical assistant** programs were recognized for their most recent graduates achieving a **100 percent pass rate** on the national certification examinations. The college received an **annual merit award** from the **National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting** for achieving a 100 percent pass rate on the Certified Surgical Technologist examination. In addition, the college was awarded a **Certificate of Excellence** for achieving a 100 percent pass rate for the past five years. This marks the 10th anniversary FVCC's surgical technology program has achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the national exam.
- FVCC student athlete **Zach Levitt** was presented with the **Montana Campus Compact's Montana Athletes In Service Award** by members of the Montana Campus Compact (MTCC) Board and Montana Governor Steve Bullock at the Brawl of the Wild Cat-Griz Football Game. Levitt, a sophomore from Columbia Falls studying secondary education at FVCC, was recognized for dedicating an average of 118 hours each semester to serving the community, far exceeding the 45-hour average of service hours completed by FVCC students in one semester. Levitt was among 15 exemplary college student athletes from across the state presented with the honor.
- FVCC welcomed alumnus **Jay Larsen**, owner and chief engineer of Whitefish-based **Hydrospheric Solutions LLC**, for his free presentation, "Using High Resolution Sonar in the Search for Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370," he presented for the community. Larson discussed his company's involvement in the search for the wreckage of **Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370** which disappeared into the Indian Ocean March 8, 2014 while in route to Beijing, China.
- 2004 FVCC forestry graduate and Logger Sports team member **Calvin Willard** competed at the **STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® World Championship** in Poznan,

Poland. Willard, who now lives in Vermont and was among over 100 of the world's top lumberjack athletes who competed in the international lumberjack sporting event, attributes his early years on the FVCC Logger Sports Team to his success.

- FVCC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society hosted a seminar, "**Solar Energy in the Flathead: Shining a Light on New Opportunities**," presented by **Ross Holter**, director of energy and members services at Flathead Electric Cooperative, in an effort to increase awareness of solar power in the Flathead Valley. Meanwhile, FVCC has launched a **new solar panel technology course** that teaches students how to design and install a battery-based solar photovoltaic energy system. Students in the course will gain hands-on installation experience by completing phase two of the **solar panel installation project**, funded by a **\$5,000 FVCC Foundation Enhancement Grant** and by a **\$3,000 U.S. Department of Education grant under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act**. Once complete, the installed solar panels will reduce the campus farm's greenhouse electricity costs by half.
- The eighth season of the FVCC Foundation's **Festival of Flavors** raised **record net proceeds of \$209,000** to support scholarships and programs. The Foundation collaborated with business and individual sponsors; local chefs and restaurants; beverage companies, wineries and breweries; art, culinary and music faculty and students; and donors to make a difference for FVCC students.
- The FVCC Foundation held its 22nd annual **Scholarship Award Luncheon** to honor scholarship donors and student scholarship recipients. A total of **802 FVCC Foundation and community based scholarships totaling \$730,000 were districted to FVCC students** for the 2015-16 academic year. Student speakers **Nigel Pickhardt, Kim Lantrip, Brian Leukuma** and **Sara Gomes** shared their gratitude and personal stories about the impact scholarships have made on their lives.
- Nearly 50 FVCC students presented their research projects during the college's annual **Fall Scholars Conference on Student Research**. The event provided participating students the opportunity to present their research, portfolios and projects to college faculty, staff and students and members of the community. Students delivered 30 oral presentations, and 12 research posters were showcased during the event.
- The FVCC art, music and theatre departments collaborated to host the second **Celebrate the Arts! at FVCC**. The community was invited to partake in a variety of art-centered events from a student and faculty holiday art sale, art exhibitions and art faculty demonstrations to concerts by Vocal Jazz and Choral Ensemble and the FVCC Theatre production of "Happy."
- The FVCC Art Department welcomed guest artist **Rob Wick** to campus for a free community lecture he delivered on his **inflatable art sculptures**. While on campus, Wick spent the week teaching inflatable sculpture creation to students enrolled in Visual Language—2D Foundations classes. Wick is known for his inflatable sculptures, spanning as tall as 60 feet and as long as 200 feet.
- The FVCC Veterans Association and Student Government hosted a **Halloween Trunk or Treat** for the community October 31. The free family-friendly event featured decorated vehicle trunks filled with treats for guests to enjoy.

- FVCC's **Service Learning program** hosted a **holiday cookie decorating event** for local non-profit agencies. Members of the community were invited to come onto campus to decorate cookies provided by students of **The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC**. Charities benefitting from the event included Meals on Wheels, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Kids, Samaritan House and the Flathead Youth Home.