

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 27, 2016

TO: Board of Regents

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

RE: Campus Report for the May 19-20, 2016 Board of Regents' Meeting

- The FVCC Board of Trustees voted to cancel the May 3 election because the number of candidates filing for the four vacant positions or filing a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate was equal to the number of positions to be elected. The Trustees elected by acclamation candidates **Shannon Lund** and **Mark Holston**, both of Kalispell, for three-year terms and candidates **Jeremy Presta** of Whitefish and **Kelly Stimpson** of Bigfork to fill the remaining one-year terms resulting from the resignations of Bob Nystuen and John Phelps.
- **Dr. Ruth Wrightsman** has been awarded an Advanced Technological Education grant in the amount of \$424,590 from the **National Science Foundation** to support her project, **Team SCoRE Biotechnology**. The project seeks to enhance biotechnology education by collaborating with high school life science teachers in implementing well-tested project-based DNA laboratory activities in freshman and sophomore biology classes. The three-year project will begin July 1, 2016 and will build upon a prior NSF grant-funded project that allowed FVCC to develop Montana's first biotechnology transfer program.
- The FVCC Board of Trustees voted in February to hire **CTA Architects Engineers** of Kalispell to design the construction of on-campus student housing with the goal of having students residing in the units by August 2017. Construction will begin this summer.
- FVCC's Logger Sports team hosted the **2016 Stumpjumper Days** competition on April 9. Athletes from six western colleges and universities participated, including the University of Montana and Montana State University. FVCC took second place behind Northern Arizona University in the competition.
- FVCC's Foundation recently hosted "New York, New York," a Festival of Flavors event to benefit **student scholarships** and educational programs. Students of The Culinary Institute at FVCC prepared an elegant five-course meal for the event, and FVCC student **Kim Lantrip** spoke about how FVCC scholarships helped transform her life. Lantrip will graduate from FVCC this spring and transfer to Montana State University in the fall to continue her studies in

biotechnology.

- **Randall Deffert** received Campus Compact's **2016 Newman Civic Fellows Award** for his commitment to pursuing positive social change. Deffert will graduate from FVCC this spring with an AS degree and plans to transfer to Montana State University this fall to study software engineering. A veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, Deffert has volunteered as an assistant in FVCC computer classes for senior citizens and has tutored remedial math students.
- FVCC's biology and natural resources departments organized the second annual **BioBlitz** to involve the public in surveying the biological diversity of the college's 200-acre campus. The event was supported by grants from the U.S. Forest Service and the FVCC Foundation.
- The **Flathead Valley Job Fair** was held at FVCC, featuring more than 70 local employers who are actively seeking applicants for current job openings. Veterans and their families were given exclusive access to the fair for a period of time prior to the doors opening to the general public.
- FVCC's international student club, **Global Friends**, organized several free community events this spring, including a performance by the Moradokmai Theatre Community from Thailand, a roundtable discussion about the European refugee crisis and a screening of the 2015 documentary, "The Great Transmission."
- Dr. David Mitchell, an **extrasolar planet researcher** from Cal-Poly State University, recently spoke at FVCC's weekly **STEM colloquium** about how astronomers detect planets orbiting stars outside of our solar system.
- FVCC's **disability support group** hosted stand-up comedians Michael Beers and Nina G in March for a free community show designed to help people confront and understand social justice issues.
- The **2016 Honors Symposium** consisted of six lectures in February and March that explored the divisive issues of politics, religion and race in the United States. **Clay Jenkinson**, Director of Dakota Sky Education, Inc., appeared as Thomas Jefferson to speak about "Race, Religion and Gender in Early American Politics." More than 2,000 people attended the annual lecture series. The symposium was supported in part by a grant from Humanities Montana.
- **Jesse Mahugh** received FVCC's 2016 **Distinguished Alumni Award** at the spring Alumni & Friends luncheon. Mahugh graduated from FVCC in 2004, where he served as the Student Government President from 2002 to 2003. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Montana. He currently serves as the

Executive Director of Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Flathead County.

- FVCC invited the public to **Night at the Broussard Center** in March to showcase the college's 28 health care certificate and degree programs. Faculty and staff were on hand to share information about academic programs, admissions and financial aid.
- FVCC hosted the **MCTM Math Contest** for nearly 400 local 7th – 12th grade students in March. Participants were eligible to win awards and scholarships.
- This spring, FVCC's theatre arts department produced "**Defying Gravity**, a play loosely based on the 1986 space shuttle Challenger disaster.
- The **Center for Manufacturing Advancement at FVCC** hosted a free intellectual property workshop with the Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional **U.S. Patent and Trade Office** in February. More than 50 people, including local entrepreneurs and small business owners, participated in the workshop.
- The third annual **Kalispell Mini Maker Faire** was held in late February at the college and featured more than 20 exhibitors. Approximately 600 people attended the four-hour event.