

DATE: May 2, 2018

TO: Board of Regents

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

RE: Campus Report for the May 23-24, 2018 Board of Regents' Meeting

- FVCC's \$18 million **ONE Campaign** recently received two large gifts in support of Phase II of the campaign, the construction of a 50,000-square-foot **College Center** to include a large performance and lecture hall, a multi-purpose activity complex, an outdoor amphitheater, and a reception hall with an exhibition gallery. Longtime Flathead Valley businessman [Paul Wachholz](#) pledged \$4 million toward the project, and Whitefish residents [Al and Lisa Stinson](#) pledged \$2 million. Construction of the College Center is expected to begin next spring.
- FVCC's last living founder, [Bill McClaren](#), passed away on March 13 in Kalispell. A celebration of his life will take place this summer.
- [Governor Steve Bullock](#) visited the Early Childhood Center (ECC) on April 12 to receive an update on the status of the **STARS pilot preschool program** at FVCC. Governor Bullock ate lunch with the pre-K students, toured the Center and met with ECC administrators.
- New York Times bestselling author and Pulitzer Prize finalist **Nicholas Carr** was the last speaker in FVCC's **2018 Honors Symposium** on March 20. His presentation on "Computers, Automation and the Human Future" offered a provocative examination of how digital technologies are shaping our jobs, lives and society.
- FVCC honored FVCC Trustee [Mark Holston](#) with the **2018 Distinguished Alumni Award** on March 21 at the FVCC Alumni & Friends Luncheon. The award is given annually to an individual whose career achievements, service to others and passion for FVCC rise above the rest.
- Campus Compact honored FVCC sophomore [Adam Jones](#) with the **2018 Newman Civic Fellows Award**. President Jane Karas nominated Jones for the award based on his work to promote and support better healthcare, education

and resources for military veterans and their families. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Jones helped start Underwater Soldiers, a nonprofit scuba diving therapy program in Northwest Montana.

- FVCC's **Art Department** hosted an artist's reception featuring paintings by **Jennifer Li** on April 3.
- Holocaust survivor **Pete Metzelaar** shared his story with an overflow crowd at FVCC on April 10. Metzelaar's presentation brought the **Holocaust** to life and encouraged audience members to connect lessons of the past with contemporary issues such as hate crimes, bullying and genocide.
- **Festival of Flavors "Springfest"** opened April 13 with ONE Enchanted Evening, a culinary event to benefit FVCC's ONE Campaign. The sold-out event featured dinner prepared by students and instructors from the Culinary Institute of Montana and live musical performances by FVCC students, faculty and special guest baritone opera singer John Sweeney.
- The FVCC Theatre and Music departments opened their co-production of "**Guys and Dolls**" on April 19. The Friday evening performances were paired with a dinner prepared by the Culinary Institute of Montana, allowing patrons to enjoy a fine meal before watching the play.
- Seventy-five people participated in "**Experience FVCC**" on April 20, a free program open to high school students and anyone who is considering a career change. Participants received a comprehensive view of FVCC's academic programs, student services, facilities, organizations and activities.
- FVCC's logger sports team hosted the annual **Stumpjumper Days** competition on campus on April 21, attracting teams from six other western colleges and universities.
- Sophomore **Jolene Thiel** is one of 75 college students nationwide selected to participate in the [Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange \(CBYX\)](#) "Young Professionals" scholarship program between the U.S. and Germany. Thiel will spend two months undergoing German language training, four months attending a German university and five months gaining practical work experience as an intern.
- FVCC's [Montana American Indian Scholars \(MAIS\)](#) and **TRIO** programs hosted a celebration of Native American culture on April 28. The event featured dancing, drumming and storytelling by members of The Spirit of the Buffalo from Browning. Prior to the community celebration, Native American students from

around Montana had the opportunity to tour the FVCC campus and learn about the various academic and student support services available.

- The FVCC Music Department's **Spring Concert Series** continued with three student concerts in April and May.
- **Lyle Mitchell** of Columbia Falls was elected by acclamation to fill a vacancy on the FVCC Board of Trustees. Mitchell replaces outgoing Trustee Tom McElwain. Mitchell's position will expire in May, 2021.
- The **American Association of Community Colleges** (AACC) named FVCC Associate Professor of Chemistry **David Long** as a finalist for the 2018 Faculty Innovation Award. Long was recognized for his leadership in engaging community college STEM students in innovative research experiences.
- FVCC student **Ezra Llewellyn** was one of 50 students in the nation to be named a **2018 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar** by the AACC. Llewellyn was selected for the \$2,250 scholarship based upon his score in the All-USA Academic Team competition and his academic achievement, leadership, service, and significant endeavors.
- Six **FVCC Honors Program** students presented their research projects at the Western Region Honors Council Conference in Orange, California in April.
- FVCC Adjunct Professor of Theatre and Music **Craig Naylor** has been awarded third place for the **American Prize** for his wind ensemble composition "Kiai!" and is a finalist for the American Prize for Vocal Chamber Music.