

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS REGARDING THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BITTERROOT VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT IN
RAVALLI COUNTY**

WHEREAS, expanding affordable access to higher education for all Montana residents is a top priority for the Board of Regents;

WHEREAS, workforce training and Career & Technical Education (CTE) are important drivers of economic growth in every part of the state, including the Bitterroot Valley;

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents effectively and aggressively promotes workforce training and CTE through all its two-year institutions and its partnerships with Montana's three existing community colleges;

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2020, a majority of voters in Ravalli County approved the establishment of the Bitterroot Valley Community College (BVCC) District; however, at the same time, voters rejected a local levy to provide funding for the district;

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents has received a broad range of written and verbal support for the proposed BVCC from the residents and the business community of the Bitterroot Valley;

WHEREAS, the Trustees-Elect for the BVCC District have developed a proposal (BVCC Proposal) for consideration by the Board of Regents that includes planning around budget, academic and workforce programming, and infrastructure needs for a new community college district;

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents finds promise in the academic and workforce programming plan outlined in the BVCC Proposal and its potential to serve the students and economy of the Bitterroot Valley;

WHEREAS, important information about the enrollment figures and funding sources necessary for launching and sustaining the educational programming and infrastructure costs of the proposed BVCC can only be provided by the students and voters of Ravalli County, other potential financial supporters, and the Montana Legislature;

THEREFORE, the Board of Regents recommends that, as it considers the BVCC Proposal, the Montana Legislature recognize the significant educational merits of the proposal while also recognizing that important information about the sources of funding necessary to launch and sustain an additional community college in Montana is currently unavailable to the Regents and can only be provided by future commitments made by the voters of Ravalli County, other potential funders, and the Legislature itself.