

Northwest Montana Surgical Associates, P.C.
General, Vascular and Thoracic Surgery

Libby Surgery Clinic
308 Louisiana Ave., Suite 1
Libby, MT 59923
(406) 293-6263
FAX (406) 293-2136

Kalispell Surgery Clinic
1273 Burns Way
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5000
FAX (406) 752-8220

North Valley Surgery Clinic
N. Valley Professional Building
711 East 13 Street
Whitefish, MT 59937
(406) 862-5575
FAX (406) 862-3797

January 5, 2005

Jane Karaas, President
Flathead Valley Community College
777 Grandview Dr.
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Dr. Karaas,

I am writing you this letter in support of the surgical technology program offered at Flathead Valley Community College. I am a general and vascular surgeon working with Kalispell Regional Medical Center and almost every day interact with the surgical technologists. I find their skills and knowledge invaluable to my practice. I am unable to adequately take care of my patient's without them. In addition, I have worked with the FVCC students from the program while they are enrolled in their clinical experience. I found the students to be both prepared as well as eager to learn from the surgeons as well as their instructors. Furthermore, I serve on the program's advisory board. I have seen the program's growth from conception to the graduation of its first student class. Several graduates are currently employed at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. I also work closely with their instructor, Erin Howardson. Her dedication to the students learning is outstanding.

In summary, I find the surgical technology program at FVCC to be a valuable asset to the community. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 406-752-5000.

Sincerely,



Bennett J. Dykstra, M.D., FACS
BJD/clg



January 5, 2005

Jane Karas
President, Flathead Valley Community College
777 Grandview Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Dr. Karas:

I strongly support the Surgical Technology program offered at Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC). It has been a year since I approached FVCC about developing a surgical technology program in Kalispell. Since then, students were selected for the first class, a classroom and lab were established at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, program accreditation was achieved and students graduated and were hired by the hospital.

I look forward to FVCC's continued partnership with Kalispell Regional Medical Center. Programs such as this add to the economy of the area. They provide a skilled workforce necessary to provide quality healthcare.

Please feel free to contact me for further discussion of my sincere support of the FVCC Surgical Technology program.

Very truly yours,


Fran Laukaitis, RN
Chief Nursing Officer



January 4, 2005

Jane Karas
President, Flathead Valley Community College
777 Grandview Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Dr. Karas:

As the Director of Human Resources at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, I wholeheartedly support the Surgical Technology program at Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC). Healthcare continues to be challenged by the goals of satisfying the needs of increasing medical interventions with a trained healthcare workforce.

Over the past few years, we have filled surgical technologists' positions by recruiting travelers. I am thrilled that our community now has a formal program to train surgical technologists. Now residents can receive the skills and knowledge to become certified surgical technologists and therefore, find employment.

Kalispell Regional Medical Center hired six graduates from the first FVCC Surgical Technology class. This partnership between the hospital and FVCC provides a workforce that contributes to our staffing needs. I enthusiastically support your efforts and look forward to working with the program for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Wilson".

Pat Wilson, RN, MN, PHR
Director, Human Resources