

FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AGENDA ITEMS 4-6

IV. MONTHLY REPORTS

A.-C. Monthly Reports

- A. Student Activities
- B. Faculty Activities
- C. Executive Staff

BACKGROUND:

Students, Faculty, and Executive Staff have prepared monthly summary reports of the activities of each of their respective areas.

Faculty Activity Report

September 2024

Karla Ryan, MS, Associate Professor of Anatomy and Physiology

On May 13, Flathead HS brought Biomedical II students into the department to experience a 45-minute lecture on disease processes and epigenetics. They then spent 2 hours with current A&P student volunteers who helped them learn material, so they could end the day with a test to see how much was retained. Karla called it the A&P Student-For-A-Day field trip. Students were on campus for 3 hours.

On May 14, Columbia Fall HS brought students enrolled in HOSA - Health Occupations Student Affiliation to a similar field trip. Their lecture covered similar material, but Karla tailored the lecture to more closely follow CFHS teachers' lessons.

Laura VanDeKop, MS, Associate Professor- Mathematics Department Chair, Math And Computer Science

Laura attended M³(MCubed), The Montana Math Meet, an annual gathering of Montana K-16 teachers of mathematics who come together to share powerful teaching and learning strategies. MCubed is a grassroots conference - the keynote speakers are local experts and all participants are also invited presenters who are encouraged to share mini-presentations about tips, tools, resources or techniques that have made a difference in their classroom. This collaborative community has always provided Laura with at least one thing she implements into her classroom each time she attends, thus supporting her students.

Information on the keynote speakers:

- Lee Ellen Harmer is with Data Science 4 Everyone (DS4E), a national initiative and coalition advancing data science education so that every K-12 student is equipped with the data literacy skills needed to succeed in our modern world. She explained what Data Science is, the different ways it can be implemented in K-12 classrooms, and how educators can integrate it into their existing curriculum.
- Jason Neiffer EdD is the Executive Director of the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA). The MTDA offers students enrolled in Montana's K-12 public schools additional avenues and opportunities to supplement their local educational offerings through online classes taught by Montana teachers. Jason shared his knowledge of Artificial Intelligence and its role in shaping the future of education.
- Megan Wickstrom PhD is an Associate Professor of Mathematics Education at Montana State University. Megan regularly teaches courses to aspiring K-12 teachers. She shared research and strategies for the implementation of Mathematical Modeling in the classroom.

While the majority of her summer activities were more closely related to Laura's high school teaching career, the skills and information learned will help her better instruct the students of FVCC. They all provide a better understanding of where students of different levels are coming to our FVCC classes and ideally prepare her to be a better instructor of all of them.

Victoria Nytes, MA/MS/PhD/PhEd, Social Sciences, Adjunct Faculty

Victoria attended the following professional development and service.

June 1-7 AP Reader for United States History. Read and scored essays completed by high school students to ensure that they are doing college level work while in high school. Depending on how they score on the test they may receive college credit, through the College Board.

June 7-12 Spent the week at the University of Maryland, College Park for the National History Day National Competition. Met with fellow history teachers and professors to learn how to better teach and also engage students in the study of history.

July 10-13 Montana Teacher Leaders Symposium in Helena, Montana. Discussed new techniques and lessons in order to better teach Montana history. Toured the not quite yet finished new home of the Montana Historical Society. This will truly be a world class museum when it is finished in a couple of months. This updated space and access to materials will really enhance our state's ability to tell our story.

Jessica H. Smith, MS, Assistant Professor of Biology

Jessie attended a workshop on September 7th hosted by Biotility, Accelerate Montana, and Montana Bioscience Alliance at Bitterroot College. Biotility administers the Biotechnology Aptitude and Competence Exam (BACE), an industry-recognized exam that assesses core biotech industry skills and knowledge. She was able to network with professionals from Biotility and the Biosciences Program Manager from Accelerate Montana, Cassandra Sunell. Tamara Mandell from Biotility will be working with her to refine our course offerings that prepare students for the BACE (BIOB 105 and 106), and Cassandra and Jessie hope to establish a partnership between Accelerate MT and FVCC's Biotechnology CTE program. She also learned a really cool activity that she is going to adapt in her classroom that teaches biotech students how to read batch reports and test reports, how Quality Control and Quality Assurance work, and make their own snack mixes following specific protocols. Something industry related that we don't know as well in academia.

James Goudy, Associate Professor, Computer Science/Web Technology. Program Director for Programming and Gaming AAS and Computer Science Transfer AS

Jim wrote a python program this summer at the request of the D2L to Canvas conversion team to retrieve grade information parse it by academic year and classes for archival requirements and institutional research.

David Sturgis, Instructor, Industrial Machining

David earned a Fusion 360 CAD/CAM fundamentals certification. He also attended the Design and Makers Summit. This was a 3-day course aimed at teaching the teachers. This was hosted by Autodesk for even more Fusion 360 classes. At the summit he learned about the large number of resources available to educators and students. He intends to use these classes in upcoming courses. The summit also allowed him to meet other educators and exchange ideas. Fusion 360 is a CAD/CAM system that has not been taught at FVCC in the past. FVCC instructors and students have shown a great deal of interest in this program, and he is looking forward to creating classes for and with this amazing software.

Eliza Sorte-Thomas, Ed.D., Associate Professor- Early Childhood and K-12 Education, Director of Early Childhood

Eliza Thomas was invited to be the Keynote presenter at three K-12 events this summer. At Kalispell Public Schools first annual Doris Mountain Summit she presented on the topic of “Success at Each Switchback” which addressed the concept of pausing to reflect on the educational journey each of our students and each of our faculty are on when addressing personalized competency-based education. Additionally, Eliza was the keynote for both the Northwest Montana Reading Council and Eureka Public Schools on “Learning Into Joy” - bringing the joy back into our lives personally and professionally and how that impacts student achievement and overall well-being. These opportunities are great outreach to our EDU graduates (many are in the audience as employees of Montana school districts) and to recruit teachers who are interested in hosting our students for their practicum and field experiences.



STEM and Health Science Faculty

Many of the full and part-time faculty volunteered for the Power Your Future by the STEAM alliance which provides young women with opportunities to meet and interact with inspiring female role models who are active in STEAM careers. There were 29 workshops with 356 registered students from 16 different schools. Eight FVCC current or former faculty volunteered by presenting at the event.

Marty Manor Mullins, Ph.D Adjunct Faculty of History & Political Science and Co-Director of the Honors Program

Marty had the following opportunity to be interviewed by BBC and engage with students:

- May 2024: Interviewed by 'BBC Live TV' on Assassination attempt on Slovak Prime Minister R. Fico (see photo attached)



- July 2024: Taught adult class at Chautauqua Institution entitled, "20th c. Europe through the Lens of Paris, Vienna, Prague, and Budapest"
- Fall 2024: After a brief orientation, FVCC Honors Program students used the Library's Makerspace to renovate classroom items (i.e., outdated globe) as a cohort-building exercise.