

offering educational opportunities that help learners achieve their academic, personal, and career goals. The program serves individuals in Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, and Sanders counties, providing a wide range of services including High School Equivalency (HSE) preparation, English Language Learning (ELL formerly called ESL-English as a Second Language), literacy skills, and workforce training. Whether students are looking to complete their education, improve their employability, or prepare for college or career training, Adult Education provides tailored support to help individuals succeed.

The funding for the program comes from three main sources: a Federal Grant which makes up 70.35%, a State Grant of 29.65%, and a FVCC match. There is additional funding through the Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education Grant, FVCC Foundation scholarships, and other WIOA programs.

The program has five employees: a Program Director, Transitions Coordinator, ELL Instructor/Coordinator, and two HSE Instructors one on the Kalispell campus and one on the Libby campus.

There are currently 166 enrolled students with 76 of that number being reportable students (students with at least twelve hours of instructional time) in the Adult Education Program.

B. Finance and Audit Committee

1. Quarterly Finance Report – Quarter Ending September 30, 2024

President Karas summarized the quarterly financial report that was discussed at the Finance and Audit Committee prior to the Board meeting.

C. Board of Trustees’ Events Calendar

President Karas reviewed the Trustees’ events calendar. The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 25th. The December Board meeting will be a week early due to the College being closed for Winter Break.

D. President’s Report

President Karas updated the Board on several items:

- ACCT Leadership Congress – President Karas and Chairperson Stimpson attended the ACCT Leadership Congress in Seattle October 23rd-26th. They shared information from sessions they attended.
- Blackfeet Community College (BCC) – President Karas attended the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Blackfeet Community College and 30th Anniversary of becoming a land-grant institution. FVCC was the founding partner for accreditation for BCC. BCC presented President Karas with a picture honoring the partnership and President Karas presented their Board Chair with a blanket to thank them for all that they have done. Several years ago, FVCC brought our practical nursing program to BCC and then helped them make it a BCC program.
- Legislative Issues – The three Community Colleges are continuing to prepare for the upcoming legislative session that is scheduled to begin January 6th. President Karas will be traveling to Helena at that time to attend Business Days at the Capitol as well as the Board of Regents. The three main priorities that the Community Colleges will be focusing on this Legislative Session are:

- Clear up and clarify technical language conflicts with the new funding formula.
- Funding for technology transitions and cyber security.
- Potential funding to support and expand existing programs and dual enrollment.
- Night of the Trades – President Karas thanked Dr. Lisa Blank, the Trades Programs, and Amber Paulson-Hofseth’s student success team who hosted a Night of the Trades at the Occupational Trades building on October 3rd, over 200 people attended. In addition, a Coffee Connect for Kalispell Chamber members was held on October 11th in the Occupational Trades building.
- Entrepreneurship Center – Swank Enterprises has started construction on the outside of the building. Once the outside is completed, they will begin the upgrades and renovations on the inside of the building. We are hoping to have it all completed by April 2025. A position announcement has been placed for a Director of the Entrepreneurship Center.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Kelly Stimpson, JD, Chairperson of the Board

Travis Steindorf, Secretary to the Board