



REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT – KEVIN TRUTNA, ED.D.
NOVEMBER 15, 2012

This month has been a flurry of activities, including the election and worries about the impact of Proposition 30 and 38. Fall sports are into their playoffs and winter sports are just starting. The Volleyball team clinched its third Golden Valley Conference title and the men's Soccer team is highly seeded in postseason competition. Like the weather, our classrooms are changing as the semester winds down with tutoring, study sessions, and final examinations, all of which are less than one month away. Registration activities are beginning as the life cycle of FRC prepares for the next semester.

I am very proud of the work of all of our staff. I specifically want to note the efforts from Katie Desmond and Dr. Karen Pierson in putting together an election results viewing party. Dr. Joan Parkin's students participated in a Presidential debate a few days before the election. As I spoke at several activities this month, I emphasized the statewide mission for community colleges: basic skills, transfer courses, and vocational training. I then stressed that even though community involvement and leadership are not formal mandates within our mission, it is through these types of activities where the community looks to FRC for direction. I reiterate that our "unofficial mission" is to be the educational and cultural leader in the community; this past month's activities certainly exemplify this ideal.

1. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Our Nursing class was involved in the Plumas County Health Department Flu immunization project. They stood outside in snow and freezing weather and gave hundreds of immunizations in Chester, Greenville, Quincy, and Beckworth.

Environmental Studies students managed to capture 3 deer – a fawn and two does, using the drive net method. They all got tangled up at the same time, making for much excitement. Darla DeRuijter reports that the deer respond by bucking, kicking, and bawling like crazy, even after the class got their legs hobbled and their eyes blindfolded. It was an incredible learning experience. It took about 30 minutes to "process" the deer, which included untangling them from the nets, drawing blood, collecting hair samples and parasites, monitoring vitals (respiration, temperature, pulse), applying two ear tags, measuring chest and neck girth (a way to estimate body weight), administering prophylactic drugs (penicillin and Vitamin E), applying eye salve, and of course attaching the GPS collars to the two does.



Jon Cizmar, Nicole Grin, Brad McBride, Colby Elliot, and Lucius Robbi were selected to receive scholarships for our Swiftwater Rescue certification course. The California Department of Boating and Waterways provides funding for the scholarships. Saylor Flett submitted a successful grant application and included student scholarships as one component of the grant.

FRC grant programs have collaborated with several different institutions to bring the *Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour* to Consumes River College, Lassen College, and the Indian Valley Academy, during the week of October 29. These events impacted over 500 students.

All Plumas Unified School District 12th grade students participated in the *Business BOOST* event at the Quincy Town Hall Theatre on November 13. Students used their business concepts developed in the *Idea Creation* workshop to develop a business in the 9-week entrepreneurship unit. The entrepreneurship unit will culminate in a county-wide business plan competition in March 2013.

Environmental Studies Capstone students conducting a BioBlitz on campus where they camped out on campus and recorded every species of plant/animal/fungus/protistan encountered in a 30-hour period. They invited natural resources professionals to lead bird walks, owl calls, plant identifications and a local Maidu gentleman to talk about the cultural resources on campus. This BioBlitz was conducted to add to a much larger database being compiled by students to populate a Natural Resources Monitoring Plan for the FRC campus. From Friday night to Sunday morning students were able to pick up 52 species of birds, including a BALD EAGLE perched alongside a MAGPIE, GREAT-HORNED OWL, SCREECH OWL, BARN OWL, Alder full of CEDAR WAXWINGS, and a juvenile FERRUGINIOUS HAWK that put on a show.

Two baseball players have signed early with NCAA Division 1 schools, including full tuition and book scholarships. Justin Bohn – shortstop – Oregon State University and Michael Bennett – Pitcher – West Virginia University.

Rick Stock reports that he received a note from a former student, Bridget Hand, who accepted a job with Center Activities at Humboldt State. Center Activities is the largest college outings program in the nation. Bridget's position as Assistant Director bodes well for future students seeking employment with Center Activities.

2. PREVIOUS MONTH'S ACTIVITIES REPRESENTING FRCCD

- a. October 19 – spoke with Melisa Choroszy, Vice President for Enrollment Services at University of Nevada, Reno regarding Good Neighbor policy reinstatement
- b. October 25 – met with Michael Taborski Publisher Feather Publishing Company, Sue Segura QHS Principal, and Micheline Miglis PUSD Superintendent
- c. October 26 – met with Mike Welser FRCFT representative
- d. October 26 – held FRC campus community meeting about cash flow, FTES, Proposition 30/38 impact to FRC, and out-of-state residency/Good Neighbor policies
- e. October 29 – met with Bill Elliott
- f. November 1 – welcomed participants to Town Hall Presidential Debate
- g. November 6 – attended soccer games (M+W) vs. Lassen College
- h. November 6 – attended Election Return viewing celebration with several FRC classes
- i. November 7 – rode in the van with volleyball team to game vs. Butte College

- j. November 8 – worked with Bill Wickman regarding forest recover payment
 - k. November 9 – met with Lassen Superintendent/President Dr. Marlon Hall regarding Good Neighbor Policy developments
 - l. November 13 – welcomed all PUSD Seniors for their 9-week entrepreneurship unit
 - m. November 12-15 – worked with Kim Aufhauser during FRC emergency assessment and preparation visit
 - n. November 14 – worked with students, faculty and staff to serve Quincy Community Meal
 - o. November 15 – teleconferenced with Rural Community Colleges Meeting at CCLC Convention
-

3. FEDERAL TRIO GRANT UPDATES

Feather River College hosts three federally-funded programs that serve the students of Plumas County and Feather River College. This summer, TRiO Educational Talent Search coached forty middle-school students at the Digital Summer Camp on the FRC campus. Portola and Quincy students formed teams that entered videos and photo essays in the TRiO Quest national contest, which fostered teamwork, creative thinking, and skills required in today's media culture.

The students performed beyond expectation, garnering an impressive number of awards in the national Middle School category. In the Digimedia video category, camp teams won the Gold, the Bronze, two Semifinalists awards, and two Quarter finalist awards. In the Digitext photo essay category, camp teams won one Semifinalist award and one Quarter Finalist award. Special kudos goes to the camp staff that coached these students, including the following FRC staff and students: Jody Flosi, Camp Director; John Meese, Google Docs Coach; Tom Heaney, Editing Coach; Jeffrey Bryan, Sound and Lights Coach; Melissa Bridges, Research Specialist; and Janae Hutchins, Equipment and Scheduling Assistant.

While completing the Upward Bound Annual Performance Report to the U.S. Dept. of Education, it was discovered that 21 Upward Bound graduates are currently attending FRC. Although Upward Bound does not (and is not allowed per federal regulations) recruit for FRC, it is interesting that many of our Upward Bound graduates end up attending FRC. While participating in the Upward Bound program, students become familiar with the campus, staff, resources, and procedures at FRC, making it an easy and affordable transition from high school to college. Furthermore, Upward Bound Advisors provide advice (per federal regs) on course selection, application, financial aid, money management, and the registration process that facilitates the transition to college. TRiO SSS, EOP&S, and so many other departments pick up where Upward Bound leaves off and further supports students while attending FRC.

4. GOOD THINGS HAPPEN DURING TOUGH TIMES

With the future of California Community Colleges hanging in peril depending upon the Proposition 30 and 38 outcomes, we all were staring at future educational opportunities for our students that would be severely limited in both scope and quantity. Thankfully, the voters of California supported education as a way to improve our great state. In a related thought while driving to work one day, I listened to an interview with an author who wrote a book about the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The author described the school duck-and-cover drills that some of us remember and how people believed that the world was going to end during that tense week. When I arrived at work that day, I looked at the

poster on my wall of my grandfather as he served in the Peace Corps, which was signed into existence by President Kennedy on September 22, 1961. It struck me as ironic that the founding of the Peace Corps and the Bay of Pigs to the Cuban Missile Crisis all occurred within a year's timeframe. So what does the current economic depression and passage of Proposition 30 have to do with the Cuban Missile Crisis and Peace Corps? Good things happen during tough times!

America was deep into the Civil War in 1862. During that same year, the Morrill Act was signed by President Lincoln. The Morrill Act, or the Land Grant Act, legislated higher education for the masses. That is, Land Grant Universities were developed to educate the people in such topics as science, machinery, engineering, and agriculture. These schools became known as "A & M colleges" for providing studies in agricultural and mechanical disciplines and for developing the Agricultural Extension Agent program. Many of the schools retain their original name today. Other titles have evolved such as UC Davis, Auburn, Colorado State, and UNR. Every state has at least one Land Grant University, typically the flagship state university, with affordable tuition and a mission to education its citizenry. (side note trivia: there are three private colleges who receive state funding designated for land grant colleges – Cornell, Tuskegee and MIT) In the depth of the worst conflict on American soil, President Lincoln had the foresight to sign legislation that set in motion the higher education system that our country enjoys and prospers from even today.

Starting with the Stock Market crash in October 1929, America entered the Great Depression. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was signed in 1935, leading the way to not only employment for many Americans, but the public highway system, governmental buildings, schools, railroads, dams, and other infrastructure that supported our country throughout the rest of the century and beyond.

It is difficult to tell the future of community colleges and no one knows when our current economic climate will end. Nevertheless, schools like Feather River College stand ready to help make good things happen for our students, our community, our state, and our nation – even during difficult times.