

FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AGENDA ITEM 7

V. COLLEGE ISSUES

A. Student Success: Logging Simulator

BACKGROUND:

Chris Moore, Director, Heavy Equipment Operator, Blake Thompson, Director, Occupational Trades and Lisa Blank, Executive Director of Work Force will give an update on the Logging Simulator.

The timber industry has long been an economic engine for Montana, providing well-paying jobs to workers and generating upwards of \$550 million per year in sales. However, there are limited resources in the Flathead Valley for people to learn about and train to enter the field. Those who operate logging machinery often develop most of their skills on the job, where the stakes of potential accidents are high.

To help meet this industry need, FVCC partnered with Weyerhaeuser, Green Diamond Resource, and the USFS to secure \$100,000 in funding to purchase a logging simulator. FVCC instructors and students began using the simulator this spring to train on multiple pieces of logging equipment in a safe, controlled environment, saving wear and tear on equipment and fuel costs while advancing workforce opportunities for students and meeting essential industry needs.