

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **THE VALLEY IS ANSWERING: UPDATE ON THE BITTERROOT VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE “ASK & LISTEN” CAMPAIGN**

Since last July the trustees of the Bitterroot Valley Community College (BVCC) have conducted “Ask and Listen” surveys with random community residents at several events throughout the Bitterroot Valley. The trustees asked for insights on what the future might hold for BVCC, and the responses so far have been both honest and informative.

“Feedback we have received has been generally positive,” said Jennifer Johnson, BVCC Trustee. “The majority of people were curious about what classes or programs might be offered by BVCC and were eager to give us their suggestions for future classes and programs. The message is crystal clear: people want programming specifically designed to meet their interests as well as local workforce needs of community businesses. It is also clear that there continues to be widespread confusion about UMBitterroot (UMB) and BVCC – aren’t they the same? What is the difference?”

UMB, the entity in Hamilton, is an extension program of Missoula College controlled by the University of Montana; however, it is not a community college. BVCC is an independent community college district that encompasses residents from Lone Rock to Sula, approved by voters in 2020, and controlled by locally elected trustees, who are residents of the Bitterroot Valley. Currently, BVCC is offering local Veterans Upward Bound courses and awaiting future state funding to offer a full range of workforce training/certifications, transferable general education courses, and community/lifelong education. Classes will be created with local input and will be offered in a variety of locations and instructional options throughout the Bitterroot Valley.

“What is most exciting is the potential of BVCC to respond to local needs and interests in a direct and meaningful partnership with our residents. Two words in the college name are the best way to remember the difference between UMB and BVCC – ‘Valley’ and ‘Community,’” explains Jean Butler, BVCC Trustee.

The Ask & Listen campaign will continue throughout the fall, as the trustees are committed to hearing and understanding the needs and desires of Bitterroot Valley residents. The BVCC Board of Trustees meets at 5:30 pm the first Monday of every month; more information on the meetings schedule and Ask & Listen campaign may be found at [bvcommunitycollege.org](http://bvcommunitycollege.org).

Bitterroot Valley Community College, public community college district in Ravalli County, Montana; [bvcommunitycollege.org](http://bvcommunitycollege.org) | PO Box 1946, Hamilton, Montana 59840  
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*Bitterroot Valley Community College “Ask & Listen” booth during the Celtic Festival, held at the Daly Mansion in August. L-R: Jennifer Johnson, Tory Clark, Jean Butler, Sue Smith.*