Thought for the week…
“Go the extra mile. It’s never crowded.”
~ Author Unknown

Congratulations Best Bee Team!
Congratulations to Darin Hoffman, Jon Benson, Ramona Taylor and Rachelle Splittstoesser on being chosen as January’s Best Bees.

Two years ago Teaching and Learning (T/L) established a goal to convert all RCTC’s common course outlines (CCOs) to a standard electronic format, in order to provide consistent and professional documentation that could be linked to the online catalog and our dynamic schedules. T/L knew that electronic CCOs would increase access to current documents for all stakeholders. We are really pleased that we have been able to achieve our goal! Webmaster Darin Hoffman and Database Analyst Jon Benson were crucial to the project’s success. T/L Support Staff members Ramona Taylor and Rachelle Splittstoesser worked to prepare the documents for the conversion. Ramona converted all CCOs to the standard electronic format based on information Rachelle provided (previously approved by AASC); Rachelle worked regularly with Ramona to be sure that a common format was achieved, without modifying the actual content of the current CCOs. Many of the CCOs had never been in an electronic format: Ramona and Rachelle needed many hours to complete the conversion of our current 1000+ inventory. A member of the RCTC faculty passed along recognition of this accomplishment by MnSCU’s Transfer Oversight meeting. “Rochester was given a compliment for having Common Course Outlines attached to the Course Descriptions. RCTC’s website was viewed by the entire committee and shown examples of the Common Course Outlines. Only one other Community College has done this so far. The Universities were dumbfounded that his was actually being done.” As Best Bee Team for January, the award winners will be publicly recognized and enjoy a pizza luncheon.

On behalf of the Recognition Committee, congratulations to Jon, Darin, Rachelle and Ramona.
RCTC to Host Minnesota Quality Award Site Visit

RCTC will host a Minnesota Quality Award site visit on February 9-11, 2010. The College submitted an application to the Minnesota Council for Quality in November 2009. This continues the College’s long commitment to continuous improvement, innovation and performance excellence through institutional self-assessment. Since 1996, RCTC has submitted applications/external reviews to the Minnesota Quality Award, Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Program, and The Higher Learning Commission/Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP). In the coming weeks, a special publication called “Banterings – the MN Quality Award Edition” will be published and also available electronically. Banterings will be a helpful guide outlining the history of the award, award process, and other topics of interest. RCTC’s 2009 MQA application in full or by category/section is available at: http://www.rctc.edu/ci/baldrige.html

RCTC Service Learning Spring Semester Info Fair

SERVICE LEARNING SAFARI
JANUARY 20, 2010
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
RCTC ATRIUM

Please let all your students know of this event – even if you don’t require Service Learning hours, it’s a great opportunity for those who are interested in doing volunteer activities. The updated Community Resources & Contacts is on our web site: http://www.rctc.edu/servicelearning/ If we can be of help to you and/or your students, please don’t hesitate in contacting us. Thanks so much for your support and encouragement.

~ Colleen Landherr Maddox colleen.landherr@roch.edu
~ Lynn Guenette lynn.guenette@roch.edu

Scholarships

The application process is now in place for over 200 scholarships that are available for incoming, current and students who will graduate this year from RCTC. See the Foundation Scholarships website at http://www.rctc.edu/foundation for scholarship descriptions and applications. For any additional questions please contact the RCTC Foundation Office at (507) 281-7771 - Heintz Center, Room HC109. Applications are to be submitted on-line by March 1, 2010, at www.rctc.edu/foundation/html/scholarships.html .
While spring semester enrollment numbers aren’t yet final, preliminary indications are that more than 700 new students registered for classes, pushing the spring term headcount to more than 5900 students. Following the drop-add period, enrollments for this semester could be up as much as five percent; increasing total enrollment for the 2009-10 academic year by approximately seven percent. Thanks to all who helped generate these best-ever spring semester numbers. The task for all of us now turns to the retention of current students and assuring the conversion of 2010-11 applicants to enrollments. Stay tuned for final spring semester numbers around the thirtieth day of the semester.

The long-awaited AQIP reaffirmation recommendation has arrived and RCTC is “looking good.” In all five criterion, the AQIP Review Panel wrote…The Criterion is met, and no Commission follow-up recommended. The panel noted that RCTC is an institution committed to continuous quality improvement, and it is recommended that RCTC remain in the AQIP program. The five criterion include mission and integrity; preparing for the future; student learning and effective teaching; acquisition, discovery, and application of knowledge; and engagement and service. A special thanks to all who were involved in supporting the extra efforts, the planning, the writing, the long hours, and the many meetings that have occurred to respond and be responsive to the AQIP evaluators and Review Panel. Kudos to all!

In the next few weeks, you’ll be hearing much more about our upcoming Minnesota Council for Quality site visit. A team of seven evaluators will arrive on campus the morning of February 9 and will conduct an extensive review of all aspects of our operation. A significant amount of their time during their three-day visit will be spent confirming and following up on what was submitted in our 50-page Minnesota Quality Award application. Prior to the site visit, you’ll be receiving a new edition of Baldrige Banterings that will provide more information about the February 9-11 visit. Dave Weber is coordinating the visit and I encourage you to contact him if you have questions or want more information. The college will maintain normal operations during the three days and I ask that you simply make yourself available if evaluators wish to visit with you and respond to their inquiries honestly and to the best of your knowledge. A feedback report will be shared by members of the on-site team and the Minnesota Quality Council later this spring.

Thought for the week…
For every failure, there’s an alternative course of action. You just have to find it. When you come to a roadblock, take a detour.
– Mary Kay Ash, Founder of Mary Kay Cosmetics
Enjoy your detours! Don
UCR Blood Drives

Monday, January 25 from 12:00 – 3:30 and Tuesday, January 26 from 8:30 – 10:30 & 12:00 – 3:30 in AT 302. Please call Mayo Blood Bank at 284-4475 to schedule an appointment. Walk in appointments are available, but appointments are requested. Appointments will receive priority over walk-ins. Thank you for your support of this program!

~ Katie Swegarden BSN, RN

Parenting Class

RCTC, in partnership with Rochester Area Foundation’s First Steps Program, is offering a brown bag lunch series of four workshops entitled “Parenting Counts”. The workshops are being held right here on Campus and scheduled over the lunch hour. CLICK HERE for additional details. You are being asked to RSVP by calling First Steps at 507-282-1027 or emailing rsvp@rochesterarea.org. We are excited about this partnership and hope to offer additional parenting educational opportunities in the future. Please be sure to let me know if you have any questions.

~ Renee Engelmeyer

Move It!

Is better health on your list of New Year’s resolutions? Then resolve to Move It! Move It! is a 10 week walking-based wellness program developed by Student Health Services for UCR employees and students. Move It! will challenge you to improve your health by increasing your physical activity. Move It! participants will set weekly goals and will be given a pedometer monitor their physical activity.

Offered via D2L, this challenge will feature:

- Walking/physical activity tips
- Mind/body and nutritional information and challenges
- Weekly walking group for interested participants
- Wellness presentations

The cost to participate in Move It! is $10 and includes a pedometer (limited to first 100 to register). If you don’t want or need a pedometer, the cost is only $5.

Log in to D2L and click on the Self-Registration tab to register!

Haitian Recovery

On the evening of January 12, 2010, a major 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti. It is the most powerful quake to hit the impoverished country in more than 200 years. The tremor struck 15km (10 miles) south-west of the capital Port-au-Prince, and was quickly followed by two strong aftershocks of 5.9 and 5.5 magnitude. Reports describe the destruction to affect as much as 70 percent of the buildings, with debris filling the roads making emergency response difficult. The Prime Minister reported on January 13 that hundreds of thousands of lives may have been lost. You can help people affected by donating to the United Way Worldwide Disaster Fund.

https://volunteer.united-e-way.org/uwwwdisaster/donate/

Gifts to the Fund support long-term recovery efforts to rebuild lives and infrastructure devastated by disaster and to address educational, financial and health-related challenges.

~ Marilyn Hansman
Catherine Kennedy
EXIT, Making It Through

Kennedy’s installation includes text, video, photography and sculptural elements. The work involves the survival, perseverance, and courage of a group of women who have come to the U.S. from Ivory Coast and Liberia. These women live and strive in Minnesota having survived the Liberian civil war. They are currently engulfed in a wave of change that demands adaptation to climate, way of life and cultural shock. They gather together every other weekend to celebrate life with food, prayer, and singing. I hope to see you at the reception. Please encourage your students to attend the reception.

~ Bethany Kalk, UCR Gallery