



Spring Semester COLLEGE Crossings

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE...EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.

Thought for the week...

“There is no cosmetic for beauty like happiness.”

~ Marguerite Gardiner

Beat the Odds

Recipients of the Beat the Odds scholarship awards, sponsored by Rochester Community and Technical College Foundation were: Dakota Heiserman, Laura Nelson, James Arama, Kathleen Vrieze, and Michael Terhaar. Each student was honored at the banquet, attended by 340 community members on January 28th at the Rochester International Event Center. The students will receive a \$2,500 scholarship to the college of their choice. In its 10th year, Beat the Odds has provided scholarships for 85 students totaling \$133,500. Honorary Co-Chairs for the event are Senators Dave Senjem and Ann Lynch. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Children’s Defense Fund of Minnesota and support for the RCTC Foundation.



Photo by Gordon Runkle Photography



Photo by Sean Cram

Student Success Day on Thursday

Student Success Day is February 11 with a theme of “It’s a Jungle Out There”. Please notify all students and let them know in addition to the sessions, there’s also a chance to win one of two MAC laptop computers! Student Success Day has sessions during the day, evening and on-line! For session descriptions, check out the SSD website at: <http://www.rctc.edu/successday>.



ATTACHMENTS

CLICK BELOW TO BRING UP ATTACHMENT ON SCREEN

Student Life Ski Trip

Transfer Specialists Schedule

Banterings – MQA Edition

Visit Guatemala and Earn College Credit!



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

Academic Accolades

Julie Christie wrote an article for Horse 'N Around magazine about employment in the horse industry. The article was published in the February 2010 edition and is called "Equine Science Instructor Outlines Jobs in the Horse Industry". The publication is distributed throughout the Midwest.

In addition, Julie Christie was the keynote speaker at a 4H Winter Round Up event in Spicer, MN last weekend. She gave three presentations; Equine Exercise Physiology, Unwanted Horse Behaviors, and Equine Welfare. There were over 80 attendees over the age of 16 and several of the high school students are now considering RCTC as a college choice!

The Townsend Press Read and Earn Scholarship Program was successful again fall semester. This past semester three students read books provided by Townsend Press and discussed them with a tutor in the Learning Center. Their names were submitted to the Townsend Press contact person and they will receive checks directly from Townsend Press (two \$200 and one \$100). Congratulations to: Mai Khamphong, Brianna Passe and MaryClaire Wingert. I am proud that developmental reading students demonstrate the initiative to take on this additional reading while completing their regular course work. The Read and Earn requirements are on top of the course assignments.

~ Bonnie Mercer



Flowers for Your Valentine!

Friday Feb. 12 from 8am to 2pm
Horticulture Technology Center at the Heintz Center
Variety of arrangements available.
Price range: \$5 to \$40



Rummage Sale Club Fundraiser

The "Circle of Friends" or LGBTQA Club is having a rummage sale in the Atrium on February 17 and 18th from 9:00am-2:00pm. If you have small household items you would like to donate please feel free to contact me. They will also have a silent auction and are looking for donations as well. The group is raising money for 8-10 students to attend the Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Ally college conference in Madison Wisconsin. Three students attended last year's conference in Bloomington, Indiana and found it to a very educational experience. Any help you can provide is greatly appreciated.

~ Janell Holter, Multicultural Advisor



**UCR IS NOW
TOBACCO FREE**
Effective as of January 1, 2010!

**Staff Development Day
Tuesday
February 16, 2010**

[CLICK HERE FOR AGENDA](#)

**MN Quality Award Visit
February 9-11, 2010**

Upcoming Faculty Lecture Series

The next Faculty Lecture Series presenter is Dr. Lisa Schnepfer (Nursing, WSU-R). She will be presenting her dissertation research, "Healing Touch and Health-Related Quality of Life in Breast Cancer Patients Receiving Radiation." Since breast cancer is so commonly diagnosed, Dr. Schnepfer's work with healing touch as an intervention is especially timely. I hope to see you there!! Friday, February 19th at 12:00 noon in Hill Theatre. Followed by an informal reception outside the theatre.



SUPALLA'S SCRIBBLINGS

The 2010 legislative session convened at noon Thursday and already the House has a capital bonding bill ready to be debated on the floor early next week. The Senate is in a similar position with hearings scheduled later this week and a potential floor vote around mid-week. If all goes as planned, they might have a bonding bill on the Governor's desk by the end of next week. That would be a remarkable feat, but one that signals how important it is to get a jobs bill passed and get about the other important business that deserves attention this session. The MnSCU Government Relations staff publishes a weekly legislative update, usually available late Friday afternoon, which provides an excellent summary of actions impacting higher education and a legislative agenda for the upcoming week. Stay tuned for a wild ride.

The CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION reported that this past year colleges saw a 17 percent increase in online enrollment, with more than one in four students taking at least one online course in the fall of 2008, according to an annual survey published by the Sloan Consortium. The growth rate eclipsed the previous year's 12-percent rate and dwarfed the 1.2 percent growth rate of the overall higher education population. The report found a total of more than 4.6 million online students overall; up from 3.9 million the previous year.

Did you know that on average, every 17 minutes a hacker can gain access to 1000 user passwords? It's often easy for cyber criminals to get hold of so many passwords in so little time because users don't use "strong passwords." Many people use names or passwords that are very easy for hackers to crack. Recently, an analysis was done by the Imperva Application Defense Center on 32 million passwords that were released due to a December 2009 breach at RockYou.com. The passwords were then posted on the internet for all to see. Here's a listing of the top 10 passwords:

#1	123456	290,731 users	#6	princess	35,231 users
#2	12345	79,078	#7	rockyou	22,588
#3	123456789	76,790	#8	1234567	21,726
#4	password	61,958	#9	12345678	20,553
#5	iloveyou	51,622	#10	abc123	17,542

Strong passwords contain at least 8 characters, a mix of four different types of characters and are not names, slang words, or any word in the dictionary. Strong passwords should also not be any part of your name or email address. Also, if you keep a list of passwords, be sure the list is placed in a secure location away from your workstation.

The Society for College and University Planning has noted that planners and architects can learn a great deal from today's students. Students provided a clear sense of what counts for them:

- Cost matters: in paying tuition/fees or searching for reasonably priced housing
- Security matters: in public places like libraries or computer labs, in outdoor places like bus stops, or for personal possessions like bicycles, computers and backpacks
- Technology matters: in its far-reaching influence on the way teaching, research, and learning is provided and in its monumental effects as a method of communication among friends, family, fellow students and instructors
- Space matters: in its influence on small-group (4-5 students) learning dynamics, which are affected by the quantity and quality of space available for study, at computer stations, or in recreation areas. Small group areas, such as group-study lounges, can facilitate learning.
- Housing matters: in the way that learning takes place everywhere, including living environments.
- Campus size matters: in that campus spaces need to be linked by safe, efficient transportation and useful communication systems to provide for students' needs
- Campus tradition matter: in the significance that college history, buildings and traditions have in the lives of students

RCTC will host a Minnesota Quality Award site visit from February 9-11. A team of seven evaluators will be on campus for a series of group and one-on-one meetings related to the application the college submitted in November. This visit continues RCTC's continuous quality improvement journey and we look forward to receiving the team's feedback report. Please welcome the team to the campus, provide any requested information, and answer their questions to the best of your ability. During the visit, our spring semester Student Success Day will go on as planned. See you there!

Thought for the week...

Community colleges quite often offer post-high school opportunities to students who would never otherwise have a chance in life to expand their hearts, to expand their minds, to prepare them for their future duties as constructive citizens. -- President Jimmy Carter (1988)

Thank you for giving RCTC students an opportunity! Don



20% Off
Sale at the Bookstore!

On February 12, take 20% off
all clothing and RCTC
handbags at the Bookstore.

We Love Our RCTC Student Drive

The RCTC leadership Committee is seeking donations from staff/faculty to donate any RCTC apparel or non-perishable food items by Wednesday, February 10th to any of the following locations: Counseling; Security Office; Bookstore; Enrollment Services; Student Life Office; Heintz Center-HC 205; Office of Pat Pacyna. Thank you for your outstanding support, you're greatly appreciated!

Leadership RCTC

Learning Center Hours

Please note our hours for Student Success Day and Staff Development Day:

The Learning Center hours for Student Success Day: Thursday, February 11th:

Writing 8-3 & 5-8
Science 9-8
Math 8-4
Computer 8-4

Monday, February 15
CLOSED

The Learning Center will be open limited hours Tuesday, Feb 16th:

Writing 8-3 & 5-8
Science 8-8
Math 8-4
Computer 8-4

Art Exhibit

EXIT: Making It Through by Catherine Kennedy will be in the UCR Art Gallery through March 2, 2010. For gallery hours go to <http://www.rctc.edu/studentlife/art>

Crossings Classifieds

FOR SALE: The American Cancer Society Daffodil Days is March 15-19th. Rose Conway is the contact person for RCTC. For more information or ordering contact Rose Conway at rose.conway@roch.edu.

FREE: Free Ticket to Medora Musical in Medora N.D. If you are going that way for vacation before June 30th 2010, stop by Counseling and ask Rose Conway for the ticket. It is an awesome show and Pitchfork Steak Fondue is awesome!

COMMUNITY EVENT: Civic League Day Nursery's 8th Annual Families, Friends & Flapjacks event will be held on Saturday, February 13 from 9:00am to 12:00 noon in the RCTC Cafeteria (east entrance: door 6). Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, juice, milk and coffee. Tickets are \$5.00 in advance and \$6.00 at the door. Proceeds benefit tuition assistance at both centers.

COMMUNITY EVENT: Elder-Network Murder Mystery at the Plumber House on February 12th or 13th from 6:00-8:30pm. Cost is \$30/person. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#) or contact Kathy Richie at x7251 or kathy.richie@roch.edu.

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



"Welcome aboard, Bob. Your job is to figure out what happened here."

Rochester Community and Technical College

AFSCME Labor/Management

Minutes for Wednesday, November 11, 2009 – 1:30 p.m. – AT109

Present: Administration: Bequette, Cram, Engelmeyer, Hansmann, Sahs, Supalla, Weber
AFSCME: Conway, Drenckhahn, Edwardy, Hughes, Lunning, Martin (Business Agent), Ziebell
Guests: Kevin Clark
Recorder: Kingsbury

ITEM 1 (Admin) GMW Area Study Progress – Hansmann reported work continues to progress on the GMW Area Study, but a square footages comparison between what was physically measured and building blueprints resulted in an almost 200,000 square foot discrepancy. This discrepancy requires a need to re-measure several areas. Hansmann also reported the College will be using a cleaning level standard for educational institutions already established. Hansmann reported this step should be completed by the middle of Spring Semester. Action: The GMW Area Study will be on the next agenda.

ITEM 2 (Admin) Staffing Update – Engelmeyer shared an update on the current searches underway for AFSCME positions.
Action: Information Only

ITEM 3 (Admin) Regional Flu Center Planning – Hansmann reported the College has entered into a joint powers agreement with Olmsted County Public Health Department to use the Campus facilities during a pandemic outbreak, noting nobody would be housed at the site, but rather the facilities may be used for mass vaccination or as a triage center. The agreement states the College would be responsible for keeping the facilities operational. Supalla added, although the agreement states the College would be reimbursed for any expenses, there is no guarantee that the College would actually receive financial compensation. Hansmann also stated the County will fit test R95 masks for our employees if we need them. Supalla added MnSCU has indicated five other MnSCU institutions have been identified as possible pandemic sites. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 4 (Admin) Office Schedules for December 24, 2009 – Engelmeyer announced managers and supervisors have been notified that if all employees in a department request leave for December 24, 2009, the office may close for the day as long as adequate notification is posted for the general public. However, if an employee is scheduled to work on December 24, 2009, it is expected the office will remain open to serve the stakeholders. The Switchboard will remain available through either the regular employee or an intermittent. Martin suggested Administration request employees notify their supervisors by a certain date of their intent to take leave on December 24th. Action: Hansmann will request the Building Services Supervisors work with their employees to determine if schedules need to be flexed to accommodate shift changes during the Winter Break.

ITEM 5 (Admin) Appreciation – Supalla expressed his sincere appreciation to the AFSCME employees that have gone above and beyond their normal job duties recently to assist numerous community organizations using the UCR Campus facilities. Martin thanked Supalla for his comment, and noted AFSCME employees go above and beyond because they respect what they do and are loyal to the College. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 1 (AFSCME) Front Line Conference – Martin reported the 2010 Front Line Conference in Brainerd will have limited registration space due to the location of the event; hence suggested details of the event be shared as soon as it becomes available to the Human Resources Office. Action: Engelmeyer will contact the Office of the Chancellor to obtain more information about the conference registration.

ITEM 6 (Admin) Committee Reorganization – Hansmann reported a Safety Subcommittee will become a standalone subcommittee under Facilities. Hansmann also reported the College is implementing a new tracking system for training that will be tailored to employee positions. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 2 (AFSCME) Veteran's Preference – Martin questioned if the College has the appropriate boiler plate language as it relates to Veterans choosing a grievance or appeal process during a termination from employment. Action: Engelmeyer will research common template language with other Chief Human Resource Officers.

Adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 – 1:30 p.m. – AT109