

COLLEGE Crossings

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

Thought for the week...

I don't understand why Cupid was chosen to represent Valentine's Day. When I think about romance, the last thing on my mind is a short, chubby toddler coming at me with a weapon.
~Author Unknown

Beat the Odds – A Success!

The RCTC Foundation hosted a successful Beat the Odds thanks to your help! A capacity crowd attended the 9th Annual Beat the Odds scholarship event at The Kahler Grand Hotel on Thursday, January 29th. The event, co-chaired by Senators Lynch and Senjem, recognized four area high school students who have overcome tremendous challenges in their lives to now plan their future through higher education. Also recognized were the counselors, advisors and teachers who have helped them overcome these obstacles. Each of the four students recognized received a \$2,500 scholarship and four \$500 scholarships were awarded to additional area recipients.

Monies raised through the event support the Beat the Odds Scholarships, the RCTC Foundation and the Children's Defense Fund of Minnesota. Our RCTC departments were showcased through video production, table centerpieces, plaque engraving, table signage, photography and donations by several departments of silent auction baskets showcasing their departments. RCTC L.I.F.T students and members of Phi Theta Kappa represented our student body with their aid throughout the evening. It is because of the support of many, many RCTC staff members, students and departments who provided their time, talent, and efforts that the event represents the best of RCTC and the RCTC Foundation to the community. Thank you to all for your support.



Outstanding Educators Chosen

Congratulations to Don Baldus and Jean Marconett who have been selected as this year's recipients of the Outstanding Educator award (formally known as faculty-of-the-year). Please take some time to congratulate them! They were nominated by faculty/students/staff, and completed a significant portfolio of their work at RCTC in order to be considered for this honor. Their names will also be forwarded to the Board of Trustees, and will be honored at a system-wide celebration sometime in April. RCTC will host a reception for them shortly thereafter.

ATTACHMENTS

CLICK BELOW TO BRING UP ATTACHMENT ON SCREEN

[Student Assessment](#)

[Darwin Day Flier](#)

[Darwin Day Poetry Contest](#)



Upcoming Events

Regional Sport Center

Feb 10-Crossroads College Basketball Game
Feb 13-RCTC Basketball Games
Feb 13-Home School Defenders Basketball Game
Feb 19 & 20-Science Fair
Feb 20-Home School Defenders Basketball Game
Feb 21 & 22-RCYBA Girls Tournament
Feb 24-Crossroads College Basketball Game
Feb 27 & 28-NJCAA National Wrestling Tournament
Feb 27 & 28-High Girls Subsection Basketball Games

Spring Semester Parking Permits

Spring semester parking permits are still available in the Cashier's Office. Please stop in and purchase one within the week! We will be sending invoices out after Feb 15, 2009 to anyone with an outstanding accounts. Thank you!

~ Ruth Siefert

Flowers for your Valentine

Friday Feb. 13 from 8am to 2pm
Horticulture Technology Center ~ Heintz Center
Variety of arrangements available.
Price Range: \$5 to \$40



Learning Center Student Exhibition Wall

Please stop in at the Learning Center (AT-306) and view the student exhibition wall. This month, we have a series of photos taken by RCTC photography students. THANKS to ALMAE LARSON (RCTC photography instructor) and the students for adorning our Learning Center walls! An added plus -- some of the pictures are scenes in WARM weather!

~Julie Rodakowski and Annie Clement
Co-coordinators, UCR Comprehensive Learning Center

Blood Drive

There will be a blood drive on campus on Thursday, February 19 in room AT 302. Please call Mayo Blood Bank at 507-284-4475 to pre-register by 5:00 pm February 12th. For more information on blood donation, visit <http://www.mayoclinic.org/donate-blood-rst/>

~ Katie Swegarden BSN, RN



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Staff Development Day
February 17, 2009

An agenda will be provided later.

THE NEXT...

Chat with the President

(A series of informal opportunities for faculty and staff to chat with President Supalla on issues important to you!)

February 25, 2009 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Heintz Center ~ HA104

March 10, 2009 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. ~ UCR ~ 3rd Floor Lounge

Stop in for treats and refreshments!

SUPALLA'S SCRIBBLINGS



Reaction to the Governor's biennial budget proposal to trim \$146 million from MnSCU's base appropriation has been ongoing in recent hearings and in the press. Pawlenty also proposed a \$151 million reduction in the University of Minnesota's funding. The governor's budget proposal would reduce the system's appropriation by 10.7 percent. This is on top of the \$20 million recent unallotment and the probability of a second unallotment when the February forecast comes out on March 3. The Governor's proposal, if enacted, would be severe and have significant consequences for two-year public higher education. To give you an idea of the impact of this reduction on our system, any one of the following single-fix methods would be sufficient to reduce MnSCU expenses by ten percent:

➤ Reduction of more than 150,000 credit registrations and a decrease in student full-year equivalent enrollment of more than 14,000

- Tuition increases of 22 percent over the biennium
- Closing one of the largest state universities and one of the largest colleges or closing ten of the smallest colleges in the system
- Staff reductions of more than 1,000 full-time equivalent
- Faculty reductions of more than 850 full-time equivalent

Although none of these items alone would be used to solve MnSCU funding decrease, and it will likely take a combination of increased revenue (tuition) and expenditure reductions, the ramifications of such a large state funding reduction would have a significant impact on students and staff.

As a system, and at RCTC, we face a real dilemma. History shows, and spring semester enrollments confirm, that the demand for higher education goes up when the economy goes down. This puts increased pressure on the system and college to stretch resources to serve more students. I'll provide a brief biennial budget update on February 17 during the staff development program. Shortly thereafter, you'll be invited to provide input through an electronic survey, on ways RCTC might reduce expenditures. Already being considered are such things as elimination of overtime, voluntary reductions in work schedules, essential hiring only, reduction of non-faculty out-of-state travel, utility savings, elimination of state-funded food purchases, and postponement of contracts. I encourage you to stay tuned to ongoing budget negotiations through local and state media, information shared by organized labor, updates on the MnSCU Legislative Information link (<http://www.mnscu.edu/about/legislative/index.html>) and Scribblings. If you're not a MnSCU FAN (Friends Action Network), you need to be. As a MnSCU FAN, you'll receive regular updates on legislative activity and suggestions on how you might influence policymakers. FAN is free and you can register at <http://www.fan.mnscu.edu/>.

Several Minnesota House and Senate Committee chairpersons have scheduled a series of Minnesota town hall meetings. One of the meetings is scheduled right here at UCR, Thursday, February 19, 6-9 p.m., in the Commons at Heintz Center. Minnesotans from across the state will have an opportunity to share their thoughts on the Governor's budget. "These hearings will be a great opportunity for the public to weigh-in on the governor's budget and let the Legislature know what the priorities of our budget should be," said Senator Richard Cohen, chair of the Senate Finance Committee. "The state is in a budget crisis and we are going to need all the good ideas we can get from the public to dig us out of this hole."

The National Center for Education Statistics recently provided RCTC with the annual IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) report. The report compares RCTC data with information from Central Lakes College, Century College, Hibbing Community College, Lake Superior College, Minneapolis CTC, Minnesota West CTC (Granite Falls), Northland CTC, Ridgewater College, Riverland Community College, and St. Paul College. RCTC's enrollment, both headcount and FYE, surpasses that of all other colleges. Our tuition and fees also exceeds those of our counterparts, while the percent of RCTC students receiving financial aid is considerably less than those students enrolled elsewhere. Both the graduation rate and the transfer-out rate of RCTC students exceeds those of our sister institutions. RCTC awards far more Associate Degrees than other schools. Although the expenditures by FTE enrollment are less for direct instruction than that of our counterparts, RCTC spends significantly more on academic support services.

Thought for the week...

Research indicates that the average person talks to himself or herself about 50,000 times a day.

And most of that self-talk is about yourself, and according to the psychological researchers, it is 80 percent negative—things such as I shouldn't have said that...They don't like me...I don't like the way my hair looks today...I can't dance...

I'm not a speaker...I can't seem to get organized...I'll never lose this weight...I'm always late.

"Argue for your limitations, and sure enough, they're yours." – Richard Bach, Author of Jonathan Livingston Seagull

Thanks to all involved in Thursday's "Rock and Roll" Student Success Day! Groove on!

~ Don

Assessment of Student Learning

PUZZLED ABOUT ASSESSMENT?!? DON'T
KNOW WHERE TO START? DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU? Your experienced



colleagues are ready and willing to help you demystify the process! The Assessment of Student Learning Committee invites your program/department to participate in a Power of 1 Retreat on Friday, February 13th OR Friday, February 27th. See attached flier for all the details!



Martial Arts Club

RCTC Martial Arts Club meets Mondays from 6-9pm in SC108, and has open training on Wednesdays from 8-10pm in SC108.

Come train with us for a month and get a FREE shirt! We are the only FREE dojo in town for college students! Come and join us!

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



And as the chrysalis emerges from her nest, she is forced to shed the final layers of her cocoon and brave the cold, cruel world at last.

Employee News

Congratulations to Julie Christie (Equine Science) who recently became engaged to Steve LeClerc. Steve is an electrical engineer at IBM and is from Alaska.

Yellowjacket Review is BACK!

Tell your Students: The Yellowjacket Review is back. This is the student literary magazine, and submissions of poetry and photography are being accepted through March 1. Please ask students to email submissions (as an attachment) to pam.whitfield@roch.edu

~Pam Whitfield, Ph.D.
Instructor, English and Equine Science

Academic Accolades

Congratulations to Kristina Ludewig who won first place for general reporting from the Minnesota Newspaper Association's Better College Newspaper contest. The winning stories on sex offenders and racism appeared in The Echo last year. Please offer her your congratulations if you see her!

Julie Christie gave a talk at the University of Minnesota's Leatherdale Equine Center on Horse Behavior last weekend. This was for the 2009 Regional Horse Owner Education Programs. Julie will also give a presentation on March 14th in Ottertail, MN for a Horse Owner Education Program.

The Equestrian Club hosted the 2nd Rochester Equine Extravaganza last weekend, a community event that included guest speakers, a silent auction, tack swap, and more. This was a great success- the club raised over \$1400.

Crossings Classifieds

For Sale: 1992 Gulfstream Conquest Ltd. 29ft Motorhome. \$12,000 or best offer. More info: <http://www.findcars.com/a.php3?q=336576>
Pat Wolgram, (work 280-5525) (home 507-545-2433)

Community Event: World War II Round Table Meetings: 2/9 7PM WW II veterans will talk about their experiences in a B-25 bomber. 2/28 at 10 AM there will be a panel of 5 ex POW's who will share their experiences. Both meetings are at the Assembly of God Church. Students are FREE, everyone else there is a suggested donation of \$3. Contact Tom Hosier 285-7254 or tom.hosier@roch.edu.