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Attachments

- FAFSA Sessions by Financial Aid Office Staff

TriO Awards Ceremony – You’re Invited!

Upward Bound (UB) and the Student Support Services Program (SSSP) would like to invite the RCTC community to their annual TRiO Awards Ceremony on March 7, 2006, at 12:00 noon in room CC 200 across from Hill Theater.

Interim TRiO Director Janell Holter will present the TRiO Achiever award to past participants Lina Salazar (SSSP) and Sambath Ouk (UB). Salazar and Ouk are both immigrants who have overcome obstacles on their way to academic success. They are being recognized for their individual successes as well as their contributions to the Rochester community. Salazar is a Mayo Clinic nurse and immigrant advocate. Ouk is a refugee from Cambodia who, after attending RCTC, majored in French at Hamline University. Currently, Sambath is a teacher at Bamber Valley Elementary School and is active in their "After School Tutoring" program.

TRiO programs promote the college retention and graduation of underrepresented students through academic advising and professional tutoring. Thank you in advance for your recommendations.

Academic Accolades

Two RCTC presentations at NISOD! Attendees at the annual NISOD convention in Austin, TX, May 28-31 will have the benefit of hearing two presentations by RCTC staff:

Dr. Robert Sanborn will be presenting a session entitled "Active Learning Techniques in the Leadership Development Classroom."

Dale Amy and Jay Lee will be presenting a session entitled "Bridging the Gap: High School to College for the Under-Prepared Student."

This is the conference, you may recall, that will confer "faculty of excellence" awards to two of our outstanding faculty members here at RCTC: Darlene Voeltz and Dr. Fan Shen.
Weekly funny…

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

"Man, I feel great. Not like one buck, but a million bucks."

Marketing Fact
According to the Noel-Levitz National Freshmen Attitudes Report, today's first-year student arrives on campus "highly motivated to complete their college degrees [94.6%][but also having] serious doubts about the adequacy of their academic preparation and their ability to afford college costs." Nearly one in three students agreed with the statement "I have financial problems that are very distracting and troublesome." Almost one in two students agreed with the statement, "I have a hard time understanding and solving complex math problems."

Thank You
Thanks for all the e-mails, notes, phone calls and the fruit basket sent to me since my auto accident. The heart felt messages of concern, caring, love, and prayers have been greatly appreciated. They have helped me through the emotions, pain, and surgery, making my recovery a time filled with warm feelings and laughter. I have always expressed that we are a family at RCTC. This past week has proven that. I hope to see you soon to thank you in person.

- Priscilla Ruemping

Crossings Classifieds

March Is Women’s History Month
The ways in which women impacted American history went nearly unnoticed prior to the 1970’s. The women’s movement of the 60’s helped change that. Today, most colleges offer women’s history courses or have a women’s studies program.

Women’s History Month began in the U.S. in 1978 when Sonoma County, California declared the week of March 8 as Women’s History Week. They chose this week because International Woman’s Day is on March 8. In 1981, Congress established National Women’s History Week, and then in 1987, they expanded the week long celebration to a month. It was established to help ensure that the impact women have on our history is part of our children’s education.

You can find more information about Women’s History Month at http://english.glendale.cc.ca.us/womhist.html. This site has women’s history links that were put together by students at Glendale College.

U of M Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees coming to Rochester!
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art and Technology

Please join us for an information session focusing on two new baccalaureate degrees being offered at the University of Minnesota Rochester (through the U of M Duluth).

When - Monday, March 13, 4:30 p.m.
Where -Room CF 206-208
University Center Rochester

For additional information please contact:
Joe Marchesani, Program Director
University of Minnesota Rochester
507-280-2819
march027@umn.edu or visit http://www.r.umn.edu

Martial Arts Club Workout
The RCTC Martial Arts Club will have a workout in SC108 on 2/26 from 2:30-4:30pm. For more information on this club, contact Steve Bein.
Supalla’s Scribblings

The legislature doesn’t officially convene until March 1, but several committees are already holding hearings. Randy Johnson, Workforce Development, Inc. Executive Director, and Marilyn Hansmann joined me Thursday at the Legislature for brief testimony on the Workforce Collocation project. This is the first of several anticipated hearing presentations that will need to be made as lawmakers debate our request for $500,000 in funding to complete the schematic and construction design documents. If the design request gets appropriated this session, we’ll be back in St. Paul in 2008 requesting the construction funding. Pat Johns, Anoka-Ramsey Community College President, joined us in the testimony. Anoka-Ramsey has proposed a collocated workforce center for their Cambridge campus. Design money for both projects have been rolled into a single bill which should be a legislative win-win.

Congratulations to the Echo student newspaper staff and Advisor Mark Schnaedter for bringing back four awards from the Associated Collegiate Press “Best of the Midwest” conference. In fierce competition, the Echo placed second, third, fourth and fifth in several categories. Quite a feat considering the RCTC entries were competing with 40 two- and four-year college and university newspapers!

A large crowd of community folks, interspersed with a small contingent of UCR faculty and staff, enjoyed a wonderful evening of music, fear factor exotic food eating, traditional dance, martial arts demonstrations and great food at last Saturday night’s Asian Student Organization fundraiser. The “Bringing the World to UCR” program included a wonderful video highlighting a recent fact-finding trip to Cambodia produced by Kim Sin, with comments by Lori Halvorson-Wente. Naomi Chu, Executive Director of the developing Asian Pacific Cultural Center (St. Paul), shared an update on the work of this new Minnesota resource. Please congratulate Kim, Lori and the ASO on a very well received event.

Governor Pawlenty recently appointed Mo Amundson to the Governor’s Workforce Development Council representing secondary and post-secondary career and technical education. Mo is housed at the Heintz Center and serves as a career and technical program liaison between Rochester Public Schools and RCTC. Congratulations Mo when you see her.

A study by the Center for School Change, conducted by the University of Minnesota’s Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, just released the results of an extensive study, “Stretching Minds and Resources…20 Years of Post Secondary Enrollment Options in Minnesota.” From the report…Minnesota’s pioneering Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is now 20 years old. Minnesota was the first state to give high school juniors and seniors the right to apply to colleges and universities, and if accepted, to take courses, full or part time, with state funds following them, paying tuition and book charges. Many states have adopted or adapted this legislation. PSEO programs can help deal with several important policy challenges: (1) The rising cost of higher education; (2) The importance of students not only entering, but graduating from some form of post-secondary education; (3) Increasing the number and percentage of students fully prepared for college when they graduate from high school. Key findings include...

- PSEO has produced many benefits with participants indicating that they learned more than in high school, saved time and money and felt more academically prepared for college.
- PSEO enjoys strong support from participants with 97% either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their experience. Eighty-six percent of participating students would definitely participate in PSEO again.
- PSEO has strong support from Minnesota residents with 82% of those surveyed either strongly supporting or supporting PSEO.
- PSEO is benefiting many students, but some improvements are needed. Since 1985, more than 110,000 Minnesota students have used PSEO on college campuses. The majority of participants are female, white and middle to upper income. Access by other demographic groups could be improved. Students consistently suggest two improvements to the PSEO program. First, they recommend making more information about the program available to students and families. Second, they recommend more clarity about what courses will transfer from one institution to another.

Speaking of PSEO, Dale Amy deserves a huge thank you for coordinating a very well attended information meeting for interested students and parents of the Rochester Public Schools. The north bleachers in the Performance Court were filled to capacity and more than 100 additional chairs were set up on the court to accommodate the crowd of more than 700. The performance court looked great, the new sound system worked beautifully, the PowerPoint presentation went off without a hitch and the program was a huge success. Many thanks to all who were involved in making the event a success, especially maintenance staff and coaches who moved their practices.

President Bush’s $2.77 trillion budget for FY07 unveiled last week eliminates funding for the Perkins Basic State Grants, GEAR UP, LEAP, Upward Bound, and Talent Search while maintaining level-funding for other important programs. The Administration’s proposed budget would freeze the maximum Pell Grant at $4050 for the fifth consecutive year. On an unrelated but brighter note, donors gave a record $25.6 billion to American colleges and universities in 2005, an increase of 4.9 percent over the year before, thanks largely to greater generosity from alumni and foundations.
A Five-Year Trend Study: National Student Satisfaction Report…How have student perceptions of higher education changed in the last five years? Just released, the Five-Year Trend Study of the National Student Satisfaction Report is based on the 2004-05 data sample of 226,432 student from 425 institutions and the 1999-00 data sample of 235,786 students from 510 institutions (including RCTC). The findings, based on the Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory, track student satisfaction issues in depth and show how these perceptions have changed since 2000. The study examined a broad range of 73 items that constitute students’ experiences both in and out of the classroom. The highlights of this comparative study indicate that while students are more satisfied in some key areas – such as course registration and adequacy of computer labs and libraries – they are not more satisfied in the critical areas of instruction and academic advising. Another alarming finding was that there was a significant decline in the level of satisfaction related to tuition. For the complete study, visit http://www.noellevitz.com.

Thought for the Week

“I’m very positive about the future, excited by the new population going forward. Maybe it’s because I’m the granddaughter of immigrants who came to this country believing that education is a way up. Not a way out, but a way up.

– Donna Shalala, University of Miami President

Scribbling readers, take heart…you get a much deserved break next week. I’ll be in Chicago for a Continuous Quality Improvement Network meeting from Tuesday through Thursday and then will stay on over the weekend and enjoy some time with our daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters. Stay positive and have a great couple of weeks! Don

Scholarship Opportunities

Please inform and encourage students to apply for Rochester Community and Technical College Foundation scholarships for academic year 2006-07. Application forms are available in the UCR Counseling Center, the RCTC Foundation Office at the Heintz Center in HC 109 or on the web at: http://www.rctc.edu/foundation. There are a variety of scholarship awards available based on various criteria for new incoming students, returning students to RCTC, and students graduating from RCTC and continuing their education at a four year college or university. The criteria is very broad and you need not qualify for financial aid to apply. There is something for everyone. DEADLINE TO APPLY: MARCH 7, 2006.

Additional Scholarships Available:

Rochester Area Alumni and Friends of the University of Minnesota (RAAFUM) Scholarship-$2000
Awarded to a student who is graduating from RCTC and transferring to one of the Twin Cities campuses of the University of Minnesota. Student must have a 3.0 g.p.a. or above. Award based on financial need, school activities, and community involvement or work.

Chi Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa - $500
Awarded to an undergraduate from Olmsted County with a 3.0 or better GPA majoring in education who will be student teaching in the coming year. Deadline is April 15, 2006. Forms available in the UCR Counseling Center.

International Acclaimed Guitarist to Play at UCR!

Vladislav Blaha achieved international recognition as the result of winning four international guitar competitions in Greece, Hungary, Czech Republic and Germany.

Currently teaching at the Conservatoire in Burno, Czech Republic, Blaha frequently conducts master classes and performs internationally. He has performed throughout Europe as well as Asia, Latin America and Mexico. He is currently touring throughout the United States. Blaha’s repertoire is broad ranging, from Renaissance period to avant garde. For more information on the exceptional and passionate guitarist, visit: http://www.musica.cz/blaha

Vladislav Blaha will perform on March 9, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at UCR Hill Theater. Tickets are $10. Student price is $5.00 Proceeds will benefit scholarships for RCTC Students transferring to Winona State University. For more information, contact Jeff Meyer at 280-5046