



Spring Semester

COLLEGE Crossings

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

Thought for the week...

“A smile is the light in the window of your face that tells people you’re at home.”
~ Author Unknown

Congratulations March Best Bee!

Please congratulate Jenee McGurren for being selected RCTC’s March Best Bee. Jenee has been employed at RCTC for more than 25 years! Jenee’s position is Graphic Designer in the College Relations Department. She is known as the department’s Design Extraordinaire! Jenee’s nominator shared the following about why she should be considered the next Best Bee: Although being a graphic artist requires creating visual images to effectively communicate, Jenee is also a great customer service communicator for the College. Just recently an alumnus accidentally called her phone number to inquire about a former employee and former students. The individual indicated he had already been passed around and was frustrated. Instead of forwarding the caller to yet another person, she took the time to listen, asked questions, and then do the leg work herself to help the individual. In fact, she went above what was asked of her by going into the archives to find additional information...A true example of an “Expect the Unexpected” mindset! This is just one example of how Jenee makes going above and beyond a part of her way of life! How Jenee demonstrates RCTC’s values according to her nominator:

Innovation: Jenee’s work requires innovation on a daily basis. She is constantly being asked to come up with attractive layouts that promote RCTC, and her designs are on the cutting edge. **Excellence:** The quality of the work Jenee does for the College is nothing less than excellent, and she continues to improve on that excellence each year as evident in the College’s annual reports. **Fun:** Jenee is all about fun, especially during Halloween. Everyone on campus looks forward to her costumes or characters for the trick or treaters! **Learner Centered:** “Students First” is Jenee’s motto, and that is obvious in the example provided above. **Respect:** To respect a person is not possible without knowing them, and Jenee makes an effort to get to know everyone she meets, putting that extra personal touch on every relationship she has at the College. **Teamwork:** Jenee participates in numerous task forces and committees, creating a work culture that values collaboration and contributions. That is true teamwork!



Photo Credit: Stan Gram

ATTACHMENTS

CLICK BELOW TO BRING UP ATTACHMENT ON SCREEN

Campus Incident Report

Visit Guatemala and Earn College Credit!

Path to Purple Programs

[CLICK HERE](#) for a letter in regard to Path to Purple on behalf of RCTC President, Don Supalla, and WSU-R Associate VP for Academic Affairs, Ken Gorman.



Campus Events

Men's Basketball

March 5-6 Region XIII A Tournament

For more up-to-date information

http://www.rctc.edu/athletics/html/BB_mens/index.html

Softball

March 6-7 Yellowjacket Classic (Bubble)

Additional information [CLICK HERE](#)

Star Alert Notification System

To date there are only 269 faculty and staff and 1,162 students signed up for this program. That's just fewer than 50 percent enrollment for staff and faculty and approximately 18-19 percent of the students!

Sign up for Star Alert Campus Emergency Notifications

<http://www.roch.edu/dept/security/emergency/index.html>

Star Alert, a free Rochester Community and Technical College/University Center Rochester emergency notification system, makes it possible for students and employees to receive notice – by cell phone and/or e-mail – of campus-related emergencies that threaten life safety or severely impact campus operations

~Bob Morris

UCR Campus Security Officer

Student Shining Star for February

Congratulations to Brad Kemper, winner of February's "Student of the Month" who demonstrated extra effort in classes, exemplary service to RCTC or Rochester, and a great attitude. Brad's nominator stated: *Brad has served his country in the military, most recently in Afghanistan. While he's trained in a career where he could continue to make an excellent salary, he decided to give it up to accomplish a dream and attain an elementary education degree. He has a strong desire to teach elementary students so that he can offer his encouragement and wisdom, especially to those who need it most. While at RCTC, Brad provides social and emotional support to his fellow students. While he recently found he is returning to Afghanistan, he is still enrolling in a full load of courses until he deploys. The students who have him for a teacher someday will indeed be lucky.*



http://www.rctc.edu/shiningstudent/nomination_form/index.php

Assessment of Student Learning Faculty Lead

I am pleased to report that Jamie Parkin has been selected to succeed Teresa Brown in the position of faculty leader in Assessment of Student Learning. Jamie's official first day will be August 23, 2010. Between now and then she will be working closely with Teresa to ensure the transition of responsibility in this key position will be a smooth one. Please take a minute to congratulate Jamie! We will be relying on her leadership to help the institution—both its academic and service sides—to continue the quest for richer assessment of student learning.

~Mike Bequette
CAO



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

TEACHING AND LEARNING INFO SESSION

Monday, March 1
1 p.m. in CF 206-208

Faculty Lecture Series

The next presentation will be Wednesday, March 24 at 11:00 am in the Hill Theatre. Lynn Guenette (Sociology, RCTC) will present, "The McDonaldization of China: The Effects of Globalization on the Chinese Economy/Culture."

~Ruth Casper, Ph.D.
Faculty Lecture Series
Coordinator

**SCHOLARSHIPS DUE
TODAY
MONDAY, MARCH 1**

See the Foundation
Scholarships website at
<http://www.rctc.edu/foundation>



SUPALLA'S SCRIBBLINGS

The bonding battle continues in St. Paul, but the conversations between the legislative conference committee and representatives of the Governor's Office continue. Optimists believe that the two sides will be able to work out a compromise, maybe in the next couple of weeks. Skeptics are hopeful that there will ultimately be a bonding bill, but believe the details won't be worked out until days before the mid-May session adjournment. Time will tell. The legislature is beginning to work on solving the current \$1.2 billion budget deficit. The Senate Higher Education Budget and Policy Division is moving quickly with their higher education budget, rolling out their bill draft Tuesday and hoping to pass it out of committee Thursday, March 4. The House is expected to forward their budget bill soon

after, with the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Finance and Policy Division hearing about Minnesota State Colleges and Universities budget planning next Tuesday. It is important that legislators understand the Governor's recommended cut of \$10.5 million to the MnSCU budget and a slightly more than \$35 million reduction to the University of Minnesota's budget. It is important that legislators view the recommendation as fair since it returns both systems to the FY 2006 funding level. Please contact your local legislators to reinforce this key message. Stay tuned for weekly updates.

Letter from the Higher Learning Commission...

This letter is formal notification of the action taken concerning Rochester Community and Technical College by The Higher Learning Commission. At its meeting on February 8, 2010, the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) voted to continue the accreditation of RCTC through the Academic Quality Improvement Program and to adopt any new items entered on the attached Statement of Affiliation Status. The Commission Board of Trustees validated the IAC action on February 17, 2010. The date on this letter [February 17] is the effective date of your new status with the Commission.

Although the AQIP process requires ongoing written updates, the next reaffirmation of accreditation visit is scheduled for 2016-17. Congratulations and thanks to all who worked to assure this seven-year reaffirmation renewal!

Campus Kudos...

- An RCTC student, Steve Grote, has been selected for inclusion in the MnSCU spring public relations magazine. A short profile on Steve will be developed as an example of a person going back to college for retraining after a long career in another occupation. Steve worked as a truck driver for 32 years but now is enrolled in the Building Utilities Mechanic Program. This article will demonstrate how colleges and universities within the MnSCU system retrain people, especially during difficult economic times.
- Julie Christie, Equine Science Program Leader and faculty member, authored an excellent article on jobs in the horse industry. The article appeared in the February *Horse n Around* magazine. Nice job, Julie!
- Nirmala Kotagal continues to serve as RCTC's representative on the Rochester Regional Science Fair Planning Committee. The Science Fair planners and participants continue to rave about the great job RCTC does hosting the annual event at the UCR Sports Center. Thanks to Nirmala's good work and the support of many RCTC staff, this year the Science Fair recognized RCTC at its awards ceremony. Check out the award in the SS204 display case.
- Thanks to Teresa Brown, Jamie Parkin, Dave Weber and Mike Bequette who delivered a recent presentation to MnSCU colleagues entitled *Core Outcome Assessment at RCTC*.

The League for Innovation in the Community College recently released results of a survey of college presidents exploring major trends at two-year colleges. Below is a list of selected items that garnered at least an 85% affirmative response:

- Credit enrollment will increase; minority enrollment will increase
- Dual credit programs with local high schools will expand; P-20 student transitions will grow in importance
- Recruiting and retaining of diverse faculty and staff will be a priority
- Blended/hybrid course offerings will expand
- Social networking tools will increasingly connect colleges to students and the community
- Use of open educational resources in instructional programs will grow
- Improving developmental education/basic skills outcomes will be a college priority
- The number of short-cycle credential programs will increase
- The use of data for accreditation and decision making will increase
- Small businesses and entrepreneurial programming will increase

Thought for the week...

More money is put into prison construction than into schools. That, in itself, is the description of a nation bent on suicide. I mean, what's more precious to us than our children? We're going to build a lot more prisons if we don't deal with the schools and their inequalities.

-- Jonathan Kozol, Author and Education Reformer

~Don



SPRING IS
ALMOST
HERE!

*19 days and
counting!*

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>

March is Women's History Month

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 celebrated on March 8. Three years later, Congress established National Women's History Week, and then in 1987, Congress expanded the weeklong celebration to a month. This commemoration was established to help ensure that the impact women have had on our history is part of our children's education. You can find more information about Women's History Month and some wonderful women's biographies at <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womenshistory1.html> or at <http://www.nwhp.org/whm/history.php>.

*~Ricki Walters
Regional Diversity Trainer/Investigator*

Crossings Classifieds

FOR SALE: Panasonic Camcorder, 300x digital zoom, 4" color LCD monitor, 8 MB memory card, 2 rechargeable batteries, tripod, carrying case, new 90 min tape. Palm size. \$175 or best offer. Contact Shelly Peterson at 507-259-2674 or Todd at 507-259-2670.

Thank You

I appreciate the expressions of condolence I received when my father, Maynard O. Panser, died.

~Laurel Panser

OAo Open Forum

The Distance Education Committee will be hosting an open forum on March 11 at 3:00 pm in CF202 to discuss the Online Accelerated Program – its successes, concerns and things we have learned as a community since its inception in Fall of 2008. Please mark your calendar, and plan to join us to listen and share comments as we evaluate the continuation of this online delivery option for students.

~ Shirley Wilson

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



Kids playing doctor.