Congratulations April Best Bee Team!

Please congratulate Chao Mwatela and Michael Gibson (and work study students) for being named Best Bee Team for the month of April. Chao and Michael are College Lab Assistants in the Health Sciences Department. Their nominator shared the following: Before Chao and Mike were hired as the Science college lab assistants, our prep rooms, storage areas and laboratories were dire need of organizing. Together with their work-study students, Chao and Mike have catalogued inventory, brought our labs up to safety regulations, and organized our labs. They have made my job as a faculty member easier because I know where to find the materials I need. This was a HUGE undertaking yet they did in less time than I would have imagine it to take. Furthermore, Chao and Mike are always willing to drop what they are doing and help with immediate classroom needs. Lastly, they are wonderful additional to our Department I enjoy working with them very much! Chao and Mike demonstrate RCTC’s values in the following ways:

Innovation: They developed an excellent inventory system which included lab material guides for all Science Labs. Excellence: They continue to improve their processes and streamline them so they are more efficient. Fun: If you’ve ever witnessed Chao and Mike walking from lab to lab with their little ducklings (work study students) behind them, you can tell they are having fun! Learner-Centered: If faculty need it, they will bring it! They know that faculty can’t do their job effectively if labs aren’t properly sent up. The do a really good job given all that they have to do. Respect: Chao and Mike are patient with faculty even though faculty may not always be patient with them. Teamwork: You couldn’t pull off what they do on a daily basis if you don’t have teamwork. I may ask Chao to bring me something and minutes later one of the work study students is there handing me what I need.

Commencement Ceremony

Graduation commencement will begin at 7 p.m. in the UCR Regional Sports Center Field House on Thursday, May 13, 2010. For a letter from President Don Supalla, CLICK HERE!
NEW CAFETERIA HOURS

UCR Main Café:
Monday – Friday 7:30am to 1:30pm

Café Express:
Monday – Thursday 7:30am to 6pm
Friday 7:30am to 1pm

Heintz Café:
Monday – Friday 7:30am to 1:30pm

Academic Accolades
Jeff Schultz, Intensive Care Paramedic Instructor, presented his original abstract *Difference in Prehospital Interventions Based on Crew Configuration* at the 28th annual EMS Today Conference & Exposition in Baltimore, MD. Mr. Schultz’s abstract was one of six abstracts that was selected to provide both a poster and oral presentation.

Mike Mutschelknaus, Pam Whitfield, and Steve Bein have each been published in *Diversity in the Composition Classroom*, a peer-reviewed anthology just released by Fountainhead Press. Steve discussed how to include diversity in course readings, assignments, and pedagogy. Mike co-edited the anthology and co-wrote the introduction. Pam showed how students can examine race, class, and gender diversity through writing assignments. If you want to learn more about how to teach diversity issues in your classroom, feel free to contact them.

Food Service and Concessions Update
The Food Service Task Force chose not to extend the food service/concessions contract with Taher which is up on June 30, 2010. The Food Service Task Force is Julie Hager, Heidi Feldman, Jen Nisbit, Stan Cram, Katie Swegarden, Janell Holter, Steve Flint, Mark Stadherr/RCTC Student, Beya Adamu/WSU Student, and myself. We have been working very hard to put together a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the food service and also a separate Request for Proposal (RFP) for concessions. Separate mandatory pre bid meetings with a walk through is scheduled for April 6th. The pre bid meeting is a mandatory meeting in which all interested vendors will meet to discuss the RFP and have their questions answered. A walk through of the food service/concession stand areas will be conducted at the end of each pre bid meeting. Proposals will be due on April 15th. Our anticipated contract award for both the food service and concessions is May 3rd.

~June Meitzner, RCTC Purchasing Manager

Open Forum for RCTC Students
As you may or may not know, the AA degree at RCTC must be reduced from 64 to 60 credits by June 2010. In an effort to get student ideas about this credit reduction, Teaching and Learning and the Academic Affairs and Standards Council (AASC) of the College have scheduled an open meeting to discuss this matter with students. We would also like to extend this invitation for faculty and staff to attend. The meeting will be held in AT 103 on Monday, April 5, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be moderated by Shelli Arneson, chair of the AASC, and Mike Bequette, Vice President of Teaching and Learning.

~Mike Bequette, Vice President of Teaching and Learning
Auto Mechanics Car Sale

Friday, April 23, from 1pm to 7pm; Saturday, April 24, 9am-1pm
Within the next couple of weeks, I will be sending out a list of vehicles that will be for sale. Thank you very much for your interest! ~Mary Long, Payroll

Faculty Lecture Series: Call for Proposals and Upcoming Presentation
Please join us for our next lecture, “Trombone Shout Bands of the SE United States,” by Dr. Matt Hafar (Music, RCTC) on Tuesday, April 20 at 12:00 noon. We will be announcing next year’s season at this time!! The members of the Faculty Lecture Series committee are now calling for new proposals for next year’s lecture series. I encourage you to submit a possible title of your presentation along with 2-3 sentences describing your work. People who have submitted in the past are encouraged to re-submit their ideas; we have had to turn down some fine topics simply because of overlap in disciplines or content.

~Ruth Casper, Ph.D., Psychology Instructor and FLS Coordinator

RCTC Student President Election
RCTC students will be electing the 2010-11 Student President on April 6. Candidates will be speaking beginning at 1:30 pm in the Atrium. The voting will take place following the speeches in Room ST112. Also on that day, student life will be holding a club fair in the Atrium from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.

~Carol Nurmi, Director of Student Life

Administrative Professionals' Conference
April 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the RCTC Heintz Center
$99 per person (includes lunch) For more info, call 507-280-3157 or visit http://www.rctc.edu/workforce

Crossings Classifieds
FOR RENT: 2-bedroom condo for $625/month, close to Apache Mall, washer/dryer and dishwasher in unit. Call Brad LaPlante at 507-280-2855

Thank You
The plant sent by the RCTC Family in remembrance of my father, Russell Howard Wahl, was beautiful and greatly appreciated. Thanks to everyone for your care and concern.

~Rebecca Henderson (Nursing Instructor) and family

Hello RCTC Family: The fact that you helped the Minnesota State Employee Combined Charities Campaign raise $1,066,394 during such a difficult economic time is truly something to be proud of. Thank you again for such a successful Campaign and I look forward in your help to make our April 28th May Basket Silent Auction/Bake sale a huge success. CLICK HERE FOR FLYER

~Rose Conway and Committee
A Few Suggestions for Successful Communication Across Cultures

- Understand that differences are to be expected
  - Accept mistakes in communication
- Understand other cultures and communication styles
  - Be sensitive and respectful of other customs
  - Pay attention to gender roles, how far apart people are standing, and how they speak to others
  - Use inclusive language rather than stereotyping language
- Understand your own culture and communication style

- Look for nonverbal forms of communication
  - Focus less on what is said and more on what is not
- Learn how to explain things from someone else’s perspective
- Be aware of rules for attentiveness during conversation (constant eye contact while listening during a conversation often violates a conversational rule in working class African American and Hispanic cultures)
- Be aware of rules regarding the distance between speakers during conversations
- Be aware of different rules for taking turns during conversations (some cultures have the understanding that “breaking in” to reinforce or disagree with another’s point is perfectly permissible—even desirable)
- Understand that cultures may use different standards for loudness, speed of delivery, silence, attentiveness and time to respond to another’s point of view
  - Be aware of different rules for silence in communications
- Reduce violations of cultural rules during conversations and discussions
  - Be aware of words, images, and situations that suggest that all or most members of a racial group are the same (Why can’t Joe ever be on time?)
  - Avoid using qualifiers that reinforce racial and ethnic stereotypes (“He’s an articulate African American student,” implies that African American students typically have low verbal skills.)
  - Avoid racial identification except when it is essential to the communication (“Judy is an outgoing student,” rather than “Judy is an outgoing Latino student.”)
  - Be aware of possible negative implication of color symbolism and usage that could offend people or reinforce bias (black magic, etc.)
  - Avoid language that has questionable racial or ethnic connotations (Phrases such as “culturally deprived,” “culturally disadvantaged,” and “you people” have racial overtones.)
- Recognize behaviors that cause others to be defensive (“We do it this way here,” “You people are so...”)  
  - Understand how to reduce resistance and defensiveness
- Be aware that objects, characters and symbols may reflect different beliefs or values for different groups and may be offensive (confederate flags, etc.)
- Be open, friendly and respectful

~Ricki Walters, Regional Diversity Trainer
Riverland Community College

May Day Basket Silent Auction, Ice Cream & Bake Sale
Wed., April 28th from 11am to 1:30pm in the UCR-Main Atrium and Heintz Center Commons
You helped the Minnesota State Employee Combined Charities Campaign raise $1,066,394 during such a difficult economic time is truly something to be proud of. “Thank you” to the people that supported the events here on campus. I am asking each one to help make this event on April 28th a big success in your participation, whether it be baked goods, donating a basket for the Silent Auction, (Dept. baskets are fun to do) or individual baskets donated. Remember our money stays locally and helps many people in our community. If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee members on the flyer attached.
Contact: Rose Conway @ 285-7260, Deb Schloegel @ 285-7230, Julie Hager @ 280-3151, or Robin Fruth-Dugstad @529-6112.
CLICK HERE FOR FLYER!
~Rose Conway
Counseling-Advising

Judith Lindman Memorial Children’s Book Drive
Friday, April 16, and Saturday, April 17, in the UCR Atrium
The Rochester Community and Technical College Child Development Department celebrates “Week of the Young Child and the Focus on Children Conference” with the fourth annual Judith Lindman Memorial Children’s Book Drive. Bring a new or gently used children’s picture book to the UCR Atrium Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17th, because we remember Judy and every child deserves a book.
Please help us make this a successful event!!
CLICK HERE FOR FLYER
~Stacey York
Child Development Instructor

Congressional Reception
On April 8, 2010, Minnesota TRiO is hosting a Congressional Reception at Metropolitan State University. Minn. Members of Congress, Minn. State Senators representatives and higher education officials will be in attendance. RCTC attendees include Stan Cram - VP Student Development and Services, Michael Smith – SSS/TRiO Director, Suzanne Nordsving – UB/TRiO Director, and RCTC TRiO students. CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO!