Plan to Celebrate with the 2004-2005 Graduating Candidates on May 11th!

In appreciation of your dedication and commitment during the past year, you are invited to attend a President’s Reception from 4:30pm to 7:30pm in the All American Room on the 2nd floor of the UCR Regional Sports Center.

The Commencement Ceremony will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11 in the Field House at the UCR Regional Sports Center. Assembly for the Commencement Ceremony will be held in the lobby of the UCR Regional Sports Center promptly at 6:45 p.m. Special seating will be provided for faculty and staff adjacent to the stage. For full commencement night information and instructions, please see the attached document! Students are looking forward to their special night and appreciate our support.

SEE YOU WEDNESDAY NIGHT!!

Educational Technology News

Congratulations to Rebecca Kruetzfeldt! Educational Technology ran a scavenger hunt on April 11 for instructors new to Desire 2 Learn as an introductory experience. Rebecca "flew" through the hunt in just 26 minutes. Her competitive spirit was awesome! Participation was voluntary - and fun! Thanks to everyone who participated! The scavenger hunt (without the live competition) is still available to any person who would like a brief look into a student's view of what Desire 2 Learn can present. Contact Educational Technology if you are interested in enrolling.

The Educational Technology Department is once again offering our "Technology Camps" on Thursday, May 12 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. These classes are offered to any staff or faculty with an interest. Registration is limited. We are offering 2 tracks - one totally devoted to Desire 2 Learn, and the other track covers more advanced technology experiences. A listing of dates/times for the camp is attached to this issue of Crossings. Please contact Missy Hagen @ missy.hagen@roch.edu to register. Make sure you indicate which track you are interested in.
Marketing Fact
Red vs. Blue, continued: The Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis, using Measuring Up 2004 data (state higher education reportcards), report that 100% of Blue states were graded "C" or above in preparing students for college, compared with 40% of Red states. (To be continued...)

Summer Crossings Dates
May 24, 2005
June 20th, 2005
July 18, 2005
August 15, 2005

Employee News
Congratulations to Guy Hammernick...the video Guy submitted to George Washington University was produced to be shown at the Minnesota Campus Compact "Carter Partnership Award" in the spring of 2004. This was the first ever "Carter Partnership Award" given outside Georgia. Pres Jimmy Carter and his wife Roslyn, Vice-President Walter Mondale and other dignitaries attended the event. The video Guy produced was about 30 minutes in length and featured the six campuses which were finalists to receive the Carter Award. Guy's video was so well received that RCTC has been asked to have Guy produce the video for the second award program in 2006. His video has been shared as an example in about 20 other states planning to begin to offer a Carter Partnership Award. In addition Guy is receiving the "Jere Trout Award" from George Washington University for producing the video.

Condolences
It has just been brought to our attention that a former RCC employee/retiree, Doris J. Erwin, passed away on February 1, 2005. She was 76 years old. Doris retired from the Goddard Library after working at RCC from 1984 to 1993. Our thoughts are with Doris' family.

GODDARD LIBRARY, LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CENTER, AND DIGITAL MEDIA CENTER HOURS
May 14-June 5, 2005
Monday-Thursday: 8:00 AM-4:30 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
Saturday and Sunday: CLOSED
CLOSED: May 30 (In observance of Memorial Day holiday)
Hours are subject to change

Crossings Classifieds
For Sale: 1999 Starcraft popup camper. Furnace, AC, sleeps 8, front storage, refrigerator, screen porch & awning. $5,500.00 OBO. Contact Shelly Peterson at x7474 or 507-932-4290.


Horse Farm For Sale: PRICE REDUCED - 12.68 acres, creek, outbuildings. 3 miles to RCTC on main road. Well kept older home. Was $265,000. Serious inquiries only. Call Karen Fredin at 507-288-0436/leave msg.

Supalla’s Scribblings

It’s hard to believe, but several things are coming to an end soon. This last edition of Scribblings for the academic year means that I’ll get a brief reprieve from writing this weekly update. Commencement means the end of a higher education journey...and the beginning of a productive career. Many faculty and seasonal employees are looking forward to some time away from campus. The Legislature is entering the hectic frenzy that always seems to mark the conclusion of the legislative session. And, this Saturday our legislative delegation will brief us political junkies at the last regularly scheduled Eggs and Issues. Since there isn’t any breaking legislative news to report this week, I urge you to continue to follow the happenings in St. Paul that impact higher education by regularly checking the Legislative Updates available at http://www.mnscu.edu/about/legislative/index.html. Once conferees are appointed, you’ll want to follow their action on the higher education biennial budget, sales tax language change, sales tax extension and the university in Rochester proposal. Keep communicating with legislators so they clearly understand what a great investment higher education is.

Information technology staff from RCTC joined with colleagues from Bemidji State University and Central Lakes College in planning and conducting the 7th Annual MnSCU IT Conference held April 25-28 in Brainerd. The conference was attended by over 300 MnSCU employees and 100 vendors representing 50 companies. Attendees had the opportunity to attend 58 breakout sessions and four post-conference workshops. Suzy Finck, Alan Charon and Tim Gilsrud helped in planning the conference and they were joined at the conference by John Putnam, Bill Brown and Jon Benson. A special thanks goes to Jon Krusmark for providing excellent media support for the conference. Ken Niemi and John O’Brien, Office of the Chancellor IT leaders, reported that the preliminary feedback from participants is excellent. Winona State University, Minnesota Southeast Technical College and Riverland Community College are already at work planning next year’s conference.

RCTC Kudos...

- Barb Mollberg, Teresa Tolmie and Janell Holter joined me at the Northland Inn in Brooklyn Park on April 29 as we lunched with reps from other Minnesota PTK Chapters in recognizing the All-State Academic Team. It was our pleasure to celebrate with RCTC’s own Grace Lumboy who was one of eight students named to this year’s team. Grace, a Digital Arts student, represented RCTC as a Minnesota Campus Compact Student Fellow, was active in the Asian Club, Diversity Council, and served on several RCTC committees and task forces. Congratulations, Grace!

- Special thanks to those financial aid staff, academic deans and faculty who worked very hard to collect attendance information needed to reduce the amount of potential payback from more than $600,000 to slightly more than $30,000. The draw back will be made next week and then RCTC will attempt to collect money owed from students who were reported as never attending one or more classes. Since securing accurate attendance data on students is critical, RCTC leadership will be reviewing our current data collection process in hopes of implementing an improved process before fall semester.

- RCTC’s continuous quality improvement journey continues with a writing of our second Malcolm Baldrige application. Many thanks to those faculty members who took class time to administer satisfaction surveys and inventories. The basis of any well-written Baldrige application is the inclusion of valid and reliable data. If you’d like more information about the surveys administered, feel free to contact Len Goldfine. If you’re interested in helping draft or want to review our Baldrige application, please contact Dave Weber. I appreciate Dave’s and Len’s work on this important project.

- Congratulations to the Leadership RCTC spring cohort who recently completed their program. Participants included employees Gary Sprague, Stan Cram, Rebecca Kreutzfeld-Bryant, Judy Gust, Missy Hagen, Rashmi Roy, Beth Diekmann, MerryBeth Gay, Jonathan Wetenkamp, Tammy Lee and Paula Theisen; and Student Senate President Jacob Peterson! Look for information regarding next fall semester’s Leadership RCTC offering periodically throughout the summer and as classes resume in August.

I urge all employees to support our graduates by participating in the May 11 Commencement ceremony. The festivities begin at 7 p.m. in the UCR Regional Sports Center. Our graduates really appreciate your appearance at this important event, you’ll
hear a great keynote speaker and can assess the first major function that’ll test our new audio system. Chancellor McCormick will be attending the commencement ceremonies of the three retiring MnSCU presidents but is pleased that Gail Olson, MnSCU General Counsel, will be his designee and extend greetings from the Office of the Chancellor. Tyler Despins, former RCTC student, will deliver greetings from the Board of Trustees. See you there!

**Final Thought for the Academic Year…**

*To love what you do and feel that it matters; how could anything be more fun?*

What you do matters! Keep having fun and enjoy a wonderful summer. Thanks for a very good year!  

*Don*