Thought for the week...

It’s nice to be important but it’s important to be nice.

~ Author Unknown

Congratulations!
The RCTC Yellowjackets softball team finished fourth in the NJCAA Division III Softball National Championship. Congratulations to our students and coaches on a great season!

End-of-Semester Horse Show
The RCTC End of Semester Horse show was a huge success. Students competed for ribbons on both school horses and horses that they have been training in the colt starting class. There were several tearful good-byes as their training horses were taken home by the owners at the end of the day and as students depart for their various internships. Present at the show was Chancellor McCormick and his wife Dr. Maryan McCormick. Both are horse lovers (the chancellor owns about a dozen harness horses himself!).

Summer Crossings Publication Dates
Remaining publication dates for summer issues include: June 15; July 13 and August 17. The deadline for publication for each issue is 3:00pm the preceding Thursday.

~ Jenee McGurren/College Relations Office

SUMMER PARKING PERMITS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE CASHIER’S OFFICE!
Yellowjacket Golf Outing

Get ready for a day of golf and fun at the 15th Annual Yellowjacket Golf Outing! The cost is $80 which pays for green fees, cart and dinner. Your participation will support Champa/Kereakos scholarships, as well as aid the RCTC Foundation programs and projects. The date is Friday, June 19th with Check-in at 11:00 am. Best Ball Tee Off at 11:30. It’s being held at the Willow Creek Golf Course, 1700 48th Street SW, Rochester. We know that many of you have enjoyed this event in the past and we look forward to seeing you again this year! Click HERE for flier and HERE for registration.

Faculty Lecture Series

The line-up for next year’s Faculty Lecture Series has been determined. As follows are upcoming presenters and topics: Barry McKnight (RCTC, History) - Piracy, Empire and the Global Economy; Steve Bein, Ph.D. (RCTC, Philosophy) - Oppositions and Contradictions in Japanese Buddhism; Tom Davis (RCTC, Psychology, Sociology) - Good News for Aging Brains and Bodies; Lisa Schnepper, Ph.D. (WSU, Nursing) - Healing Touch and Health-Related Quality of Life in Breast Cancer Patients Receiving Radiation; Lynn Guenette (RCTC, Sociology) - The McDonaldization of China; Matt Hafar (RCTC, Music) - Trombone Shout Bands of the Southeast United States.

Book Drive Thank You

Thanks to all who contributed to the Judy Lindman Memorial Book Drive held in April. This year’s contributions totaled 1,709 books! Books were donated on campus and also by attendees of the Focus Conference sponsored by Child Care Resource and Referral. In addition, many books were received from Rochester Central Lutheran School in conjunction with a stewardship event. This week, Child Development students are delivering books to the following organizations: Civic League Day Nursery, Crisis Nursery, The Ronald McDonald House, Head Start, Mayo-Eugenio Litta Children’s Hospital, Smart Start and the Women’s Shelter. Thank you for your contribution in honoring Judy and her love of children and books!

~ The Child Development Program
Stacey York and Marcia Connelly

Commencement Thank You

Click HERE for commencement thank you letter.
Tuesday evening the Higher Education Conference Committee reached agreement on the higher education omnibus bill. As I write this, it’s on its way to the Governor. Here are some highlights from the compromise bill as reported by the System Office.

As a reminder, going into conference committee the governor and House were recommending a 2010-11 base cut to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system of $161.8 million, with a one-time federal stimulus appropriation of $133.8 million. The Senate was recommending a cut of $103.8 million, with a one-time federal stimulus appropriation of $75 million. The final bill cuts the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system $95 million over the 2010-11 biennium, with a one-time federal stimulus appropriation of $79 million, $63.9 million one-time funds in fiscal year 2010 and $15.3 million one-time in the current biennium that were included in the bill for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities:

- Tuition cap of 5 percent each year with a buy-down using the federal stimulus funds to 3 percent in FY 2010 and 3 percent in FY11.
- Language on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that states the federal funds may be used for modernization, renovation, or repair of facilities that are primarily used for instruction, research or student housing. Language also reads that the federal funds must be used as a bridge for budget reductions, and may be used to retain faculty and staff jobs, provide severance and early retirement incentives and to mitigate the rising costs of attendance through minimizing tuition increases and the support of student employment opportunities.
- Language that restricts the board from reserving or expending appropriations for competitive salaries, awards of excellence, campus and technology initiatives outside the allocation model, or other board or chancellor initiatives during the 2010-11 biennium.
- Caps the technology initiative at $40 million for the 2010-11 biennium.
- $150,000 each year for technical and community college emergency grants for students experiencing extraordinary economic circumstances that may result in the student dropping out of school without completing the term or program.

Not included in the compromise bill is the provision that states that MnSCU cannot fill administrative or managerial positions or use search firms for hiring. The language that capped the funds for underrepresented students at $5 million over the biennium was not included in the final bill. Included in the final bill was the House language on the 60 college and 120 university credit cap policy for the MnSCU system. The language states that the AAS degree is exempt from the 60-credit limit until July 2, 2012. By January 2, 2012, MSCF and MSCSA are to present a joint report to the Legislature on a process for reviewing the credit requirements for an AAS degree. Included is a provision on course equivalency that directs MnSCU to maintain course equivalency guides that include information on the course equivalency and awarding of credit for learning acquired as a result of the successful completion of formal military courses and occupational training. The provision on American made clothing in bookstores was amended to delete the word "only." The final language now reads, "To the extent possible, a bookstore located on the campus of a public college or university in Minnesota must offer for sale clothing or articles of apparel that are manufactured in the United States of America. The college or university must make a report to the legislature on the results of efforts to comply with this section." The provision in the bill that required, as a condition of enrollment, that each entering Minnesota resident student complete the federal application for student aid, or FAFSA, was amended to now require all eligible institutions to adopt policies and procedures that ensure applicants are aware that they must annually complete the FAFSA to be eligible for financial aid. Board of Trustees language is amended so that a commissioner of a state agency may not serve as a member of the board. However, the bill does include language that allows for a commissioner currently serving on the board to continue serving the remainder of the term. Language was also adopted into the final bill that adds an additional labor representative to the board. The final language on labor market data review for MnSCU was amended to now read, "The board must assess labor market data when conducting college program reviews. Colleges must provide prospective students with the job placement rate for graduates of technical and occupational programs offered at the colleges." The tuition guarantee language that requires the system to offer students a four-year stable tuition rate was not included in the final bill. Language is included that encourages the Board of Trustees to place a priority on identifying and implementing measures to improve the human resources system used by MnSCU in order to increase efficiencies and equity for faculty and staff.

The Capital Investment (Bonding) Conference Committee also concluded its work late Tuesday evening and legislators are sending a bill to the Governor that includes $279.8 million in general obligation bonds. Included in the bill is $40 million in HEAPR funding for MnSCU ($1,013,000 for RCTC projects), the five projects vetoed last session (including the renovation of vacated nursing labs in the Plaza building), and a $5 million grant to construct a steam line from the Olmsted County Waste-to-Energy facility to the University Center Campus. Stay tuned for updates on whether or not the Governor signs or line item vetoes these projects.

If you haven’t completed the web-based Employee Satisfaction Survey, please do so ASAP. Your response is important and will help make RCTC a better place to learn and work.

Graduate thought for the week…

A college education is not a quantitative body of memorized knowledge salted away in a card file. It is a taste for knowledge, a taste for philosophy, if you will; a capacity to explore, to question to perceive relationships, between fields of knowledge and experience.

-- A. Whitney Griswold

Thanks for another good year. Your efforts are very much appreciated by students and me. Enjoy the summer!

~ Don