You’re Invited ~ Upward Bound Project Showcase!

Students and Staff of the RCTC Upward Bound Summer 07 Program are proud to invite you to their Project Showcase on Thursday, July 19th from 3:00 – 6:30 p.m. in the UCR Atrium.

View their projects and displays:

- English & History of Arabian Nights
- Math & Science of Astronomy
- American Sign Language
- Philosophy for Everyone – P4E
- Stilting, Trash Can Art, One of a Kind, Ready..Set..Go!
- Here’s Chicago!!
- Survival 101

Hear students perform musical talent.

“We make higher education a reality”

This Upward Bound Program is federally funded and sponsored by RCTC.

Increasing Cultural Competence

Our world is changing with lightening speed. According to Robert Bernstein at the U.S. Census Bureau, “In 2005, the nation’s minority population totaled 98 million, or 33 percent, of the country’s total of 296.4 million.” These numbers are increasing by leaps and bounds. With visible, rapid changes in our communities, it has often been necessary to make adjustments in how we live and deal with each other. Most of us want to be inclusive of everyone, but just don’t know the best way to do that. Increasing our cultural competence is essential to building understanding and trust in our personal and professional relationships—to improving our lives. Without cultural competence we begin to lag behind in an increasingly global, inclusive world.

Some ways to increase cultural competence:

*Learn about a new culture or someone who is different from you in some way.*

Take a course, attend a diversity conference or seminar, read a book, sit down next to someone who doesn’t look like you at lunch or in class and ask the person how his or her day has been. Ask about the person’s family and what they do for fun. As you get to know the person, you can ask about their culture, their heritage. Begin to know the person first, and soon you’ll begin to understand the culture.

*Understand your own culture.*

Find out what makes you who you are—what sets you apart from others, what makes you the same. Once you begin to appreciate your own background, you can better appreciate others. Ask yourself questions like: Where did your family originate, where do you live in the U.S., what language do you speak, did your family ever speak another language, what religion are you, what socioeconomic class are you, how does all of this make you distinctive, how do you interact with the world around you because of who you are?

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Marketing Corner
Anna Pingree will be doing the Mayo Education Fairs this week. She is at the Eisenberg Building on July 17th, Harwick on July 18th and St. Mary’s on July 19th. Summer campus visits are planned for July 24, 27 and 31.

New Fitness Center Hours
Mondays 9-6 closed noon to 1 pm for lunch
Tuesday 9-5 closed noon to 1 pm for lunch
Wednesday 9-6 closed noon to 1 pm for lunch
Thursday 9-5 closed noon to 1 pm for lunch
Friday 9-6 closed noon to 1 pm for lunch

Note: The hours may be modified again for August depending on work study availability.

Thank You
Thank you to everyone for the cards, kind comments, the retirement reception, and the lovely clock. I will always have good memories of my job and especially of all the people I worked with over the years. Thank you all so much.

Sharon Wieners

Condolences
Condolences to Tammy Lee whose father, Robert Warrant, passed away on June 26th. Condolences to Jessie Martinez whose father, Enrique "Henry" Martinez, passed away on June 27th. Condolences are also extended to Pat Wolfgram whose father-in-law, Philip Wolfgram, passed away on July 13th. Our thoughts are with these employees and their families.

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Don’t pretend that differences don’t exist.
They do—and they make the world a very interesting place. A Black American can experience and interact with the world very differently than someone from the white majority. White Americans experience privileges daily that people of color infrequently benefit from. A disabled American also experiences the world very differently than the non disabled majority. And it’s important for those of us in the majority to acknowledge that differences do exist, and to accept and embrace the differences, rather than expecting that everyone live like us—that we all fit into the same cookie cutter kind of mold.

Be open to new ways of doing things and seeing the world.
Only open minds see the new and interesting details that closed minds miss.

Get involved in your community.
Volunteer at a local community center, welcome center, YMCA, youth center, or The Salvation Army. Your time and skills will be welcomed, and you will always get back as much or more than you give. Establish or participate in a local diversity council. Participate as a mentor or coach. Attend community cultural heritage events. Start a soccer team that cuts across racial barriers. Community involvement is a wonderful opportunity for service learning.

Treat people respectfully and expect that they treat you and others respectfully as well.
Though this idea is basic to being culturally competent, it can be easier said than done. It’s easy to remember to treat people as you would like to be treated. It’s not so easy to know how other people think about this rule, or to understand how others would like to be treated. It’s easy not to make disparaging jokes or comments about someone who is different, but it can be very difficult to tell your friends that you think their bad jokes and stupid comments about race, culture, gender or sexual orientation are rude and out of line. And it’s extremely difficult to speak up when you hear a disparaging comment made directly to someone of another race or ability when we witness it in the community. It is essential, though, that we think about how we might best handle these situations when they arise, and put a plan of positive action into place—if even just for ourselves.

If you want to learn more: Books: Explorations in Cultural Competence: Journeys to the Four Directions Hilary Weaver; Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations about Race Beverly Daniel Tatum; And Don’t Call Me a Racist! Ella Mazel; Where We Stand: Class Matters Routledge; A White Teacher Talks about Race Julie Landsman; The World is Flat Thomas L. Friedman; A Framework for Understanding Poverty Ruby Payne

Organizations and Web Sites:
MultiCultural Development Center (MCDC) http://www.mcdc.org
Southern Poverty Law Center http://www.tolerance.org
National Center for Cultural Competence http://www11.georgetown.edu/research/gucchd/nccc/documents/Getting_Started.html
The Courage Center http://www.courage.org
OutFront Minnesota, Leading the Way for GLBT Equality http://www.outfront.org
U. S. Census Bureau http://www.census.gov/

Ricki Walters
Regional Diversity Trainer/Investigator
Supalla’s Scribblings

At it’s June meeting, the MnSCU Board of Trustees approved tuition increases averaging $146 for 2007-08. Overall, tuition for the system’s 32 colleges and universities will rise an average of 3.6 percent. The Board directed Chancellor McCormick to report back in January on how the budget would be affected if tuition increases were held to two percent or less at the colleges and 3 percent or less at the universities for the 2008-09 academic year. The tuition package approved by the board also expanded the number of colleges (which already included RCTC) and universities that will not charge a higher tuition rate to non-resident students from 11 to 22 institutions. The board approved a 3.5% tuition increase ($138/credit) for RCTC students. In addition, RCTC students will pay $21/credit in required fees.

MnSCU Chancellor McCormick may serve until July 31, 2011, under a 12-month contract extension approved by the Board of Trustees. McCormick’s annual salary for the upcoming year will be $340,000, which is the same amount he earned this year. In addition, he is eligible for a performance bonus of up to $25,000. McCormick, 68, was the founding chancellor of the State System of Higher Education for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania before assuming the Minnesota position in 2001.

Speaking of chancellors, the University of Minnesota Rochester has named three final candidates for its new chancellor position. The three finalists, recently interviewed in Rochester, include Allan Myerson, Provost and Senior Vice President at Illinois Institute of Technology; Stephen Lehmkuhle, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Missouri; and David Chang, Chancellor, Polytechnic University in Brooklyn, New York. An appointment announcement is expected in the near future.

The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a welcome reception for Dr. Romain Dallemand, new Rochester Superintendent of Schools. The reception is scheduled from 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, July 24 at the Rochester International Event Center. Dr. Dallemand replaced retiring superintendent Jerry Williams on July 1. Cost of the reception is $25.

Congratulations to Beth Diekmann, Assistant Financial Aid Director, who was recognized for her graduation from MnSCU’s Luoma Leadership Academy. The year-long Academy is organized by the MnSCU Office of the Chancellor and provides leadership training for future academic and support services leaders. Bret Fuller and Steve Monson have been nominated as RCTC participants in the upcoming Luoma Leadership Academy.

On behalf of RCTC, I recently signed the American College & University President’s Climate Commitment. By signing the commitment, I acknowledge that RCTC is deeply concerned about the unprecedented scale and speed of global warming and its potential for large-scale, adverse health, social, economic and ecological effects. Those signing the Commitment recognize the scientific consensus that global warming is real and is largely caused by humans. We believe colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modeling ways to minimize global warming emissions, and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality. Campuses that address the climate challenge by reducing global warming emissions and by integrating sustainability into the curriculum will better serve their students and meet their social mandate to help create a thriving, ethical and civil society. Commitment colleges will be providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to address the critical, systemic challenges faced by the world in this new century and enable them to benefit from the economic opportunities that will arise as a result of solutions developed. We believe that colleges and universities that exert leadership in addressing climate change will stabilize and reduce their long-term energy costs, attract excellent students and faculty, attract new sources of funding, and increase the support of alumni and local communities. By signing the Commitment, I pledge that RCTC will initiate a plan to pursue climate neutrality, reduce greenhouse gases and make our action plan publicly available.

Although many professionals check e-mail during meetings, colleagues have mixed feelings about the courtesy of such behavior. Almost nine out of ten executives polled said it is “somewhat” or “very” common for professionals they work with to read and respond to e-mail messages during meetings, according to a survey by Robert Haif Management Resources. Thirty-seven percent of senior executives said it’s okay to read and respond only to urgent messages, 31 percent it’s never okay, 23 percent said attendees should step outside the meeting to read messages, and 9 percent said it’s okay to read and respond to any e-mail messages.

Thought for the Summer…

*It’s not necessary to do extraordinary things to get extraordinary results.*

~Warren Buffet, American investor, businessman and philanthropist

I hope you’re enjoying some quality time with family and friends, relaxing and soaking up the sunshine.

---Don

### It’s a Girl x 2!

Congratulations to John and Tammi Tacinelli on the birth of their daughter, Rose Madeline. Rose was born on July 6th and weighed 5lbs, 5 oz and was 15.75 inches long. Congratulations also to Scott and Dawn Krook on the birth of their sixth child, a daughter (yet to be named) who weighed in at 8lbs, 5ozs.

### Club Meeting

Martial Arts Club meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-8:00pm in SC108.