Welcome Day

This year we are planning a new initiative to welcome our incoming students to campus with a Welcome Day on Thursday, August 20th. The event is an open house format for students to stop in at any time between 10 am and 1 pm. Lunch begins at 11 am and will be served until the food is gone. Our Student Life program is sponsoring the free BBQ and many great prizes for the students. If you are interested in volunteering to help out at the event please email me. Help us to give our new students a warm welcome and show them what a great place RCTC is to further their education! Thank you!

~ Janet Finlayson, M.Ed., NCC, DCC, Counselor

RCTC Receives Award

As you may recall, last year RCTC received an honorable mention for the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility. At that time, we announced our goal to continue to foster a workplace environment that is conducive to meeting both the institutional and employee needs and become an actual “Award Winner in 2009.” It is a pleasure to announce that we have achieved that goal as we have been selected to receive this award in 2009. This award recognizes employers who are successfully using workplace flexibility to meet both employer and employee goals. The application is a two-step process. Human Resources completed an employer survey questionnaire which was scored and it was determined that we met the criteria to become a finalist. The second part of the process was the online survey where RCTC employees were asked to share their personal experiences with workplace flexibility options. Our employer application was corroborated by the employee survey results. The overall score combines the scores of both the employer and employee responses with one third of the overall score from the employer application and two thirds from the employee survey. Ten RCTC employees from various departments attended the award ceremony sponsored by the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce on August 4th. Thank you to those who took the time to complete the survey. Congratulations RCTC!
Parking Permits
Parking permits both Annual (good for the time period August 24, 2009 thru August 23, 2010) and Fall Semester (good for the time period August 24, 2009 thru December 18, 2009) are available for purchase in the Cashier’s Office. Spring permits will be available in January 2010. Please stop in the Cashier’s office to purchase your permit before August 31, 2009, as ticketing in lots will begin then. We will also be selling permits Friday morning August 21, 2009, in front of Hill Theater before Staff Development activities begin.

~Ruth Siefert, Business Office Supervisor

Official Student Communication Policy
There is an expanding dependence on electronic communication among students, faculty, and staff at RCTC. This is motivated by the convenience, speed, cost-effectiveness, and environmental advantages of using email rather than printed communication. Because of this increasing dependence and acceptance of electronic communication, RCTC has an Official Student Communication Policy and Procedures. The intent of the policy is to utilize electronic mail as a means to communicate important information to our students in a timely manner. All students enrolled in credit bearing course work are assigned an official RCTC e-mail account, and official college communication shall be sent to these accounts.

GUIDELINES
- Items must be submitted to roxy.roadway@roch.edu in electronic format.
- The use of attachments is discouraged.
- The use of web links is strongly encouraged.
- Requests must be received at least ten (10) working days prior to the intended e-mail distribution date.

Examples of Appropriate Student Wide Distribution:
- Communicating Student Life Activities and information
- Communicating important deadlines (drop/add, payments due date, last days to withdrawal, etc.)
- Surveys that are sanctioned for UCR/RCTC purposes.

Examples of Inappropriate Student Wide Distribution:
- Information unrelated to UCR/RCTC business
- Solicitation
- Promoting political viewpoints
- Messages containing confidential information such as grades, financial aid awards, etc.
- Emails that violate the Official Student Communication Policy.

The Official Student Communication Policy is attached. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Roxy Roadway at 285-7127.

Retiree’s Breakfast
The semi-annual RCTC/RCC/RTC Retirees’ Breakfast will take place on: Thursday, September 3, 2009 beginning at 8:30am at the Real Life Cooperative, 825 Essex Parkway NW (about 1/2 mile north of 37th Street NW, just west of West River Parkway; or east on 55th St. NW, which turns south and becomes West River Parkway). A $1.00 donation to cover the cost for coffee, donuts, juice and fruit will be appreciated. In addition to reconnecting with colleagues, President Don Supalla will present an update on what’s happening on campus. Please RSVP to Arlouene Bothun at 282-1594 or albothun@hotmail.com by September 1 if you plan to attend.
Did you know?

- The MnSCU Board of Trustees approved a tuition and fee increase for RCTC students of 2.6 percent. This is less than the average 2.9 percent tuition and fee increase for the 25 two-year colleges. Even with this less-than-average 2009-10 increase, full-time RCTC students will still pay $5,028 in tuition and fees, compared to a two-year college system average of $4,780. Thanks to federal stimulus money used to buy-down 2009-10 tuition, full-time RCTC students will pay $4,944 out-of-pocket; more than the $4,697 average for the system.
- Congratulations to Christine M. Miller and Scott Sahs who have been accepted into the 2010 Chamber of Commerce Leadership Greater Rochester Class! The selection is a tribute to their leadership abilities and commitment to the Rochester area. In addition to learning more about Rochester and Southeast Minnesota, participants will select a group community project and are expected to assume future community leadership positions. Way to go!
- The Business and Workforce Development team has garnered two more Minnesota Job Skills Partnership grants. RCTC was one of ten MnSCU institutions to receive grants totaling $1,272,304, or 100 percent of the total awarded.
- RCTC was one of just 8 organizations recognized with the prestigious Sloan Award for flexibility in the workplace. Thanks to all who completed the electronic survey this spring, one of the requirements for eligibility. The beautiful crystal award is a fitting reward to the many flexible employment options available to RCTC employees. I appreciate the good work of the Human Resources staff that coordinated the application and Tom Kerr, Linda Dorschner, Roman Staloch and Dave Weber who provided testimonials for the award celebration video.
- A recent survey of university students revealed that 99.7% of students have a mobile communications device, and the rates of sending text messages, e-mails, photos, and videos are increasing. Twenty-seven percent of students own a smart phone, as compared with the national average of 19% for working adults. Text messaging has overtaken e-mail and instant messaging as the main form of communications, as 94 percent of students send and receive text messages. Almost 62% of students admitted to texting while in class.

Thought for the week…

"Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can." -- Arthur Ashe, Tennis Great

Don

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Ever accidentally hit a bee hive and rile up a swarm of Yellowjackets? I’m reminded of that swarming mass of bees as I wander the halls and offices this week. The annual last-minute rush to apply and register has commenced. Even though a large number of enrollments were cancelled for non-payment and more than 70 fall semester classes were cancelled due to low enrollments, it appears that enrollments will still be up by at least the three percent budgeted increase. I very much appreciate the hard work of many staff that have done an extraordinary job accommodating the needs and demands of new and returning students (some helicopter parents, too).

Since the last edition of Crossings, President Obama has announced a bold proposal that would dedicate nearly $12 billion over ten years to enhance work force training at community colleges at a time when higher education is under increased financial strain and students need help more than ever. The proposed package includes money for curriculum development, expansion of online courses, and funding for facilities improvement. In exchange for the increased funding, the President is calling for an additional 5 million community college graduates by 2020 to help the nation compete in the global economy. If the Legislature approves the plan, the monies would be awarded on a competitive basis for:

- Providing $9 billion for two new grant programs designed to help community colleges develop and improve programs aimed at degree completion and training and retraining workers.
- Making available $2.5 billion in low-cost interest loan funding to improve community college facilities.
- Expanding online learning options with $500 million in new funding to create on Online Skills Laboratory.

Congress must act before the president’s plan can be implemented, since the bulk of the funding for the proposal would come from savings that would be generated through the president’s plan to eliminate the Family Federal Education Loan Program. Stay tuned for developments as this important proposal works its way through the legislative process.

The MnSCU Board of Trustees has approved a 2010 capital bonding request to fund $403.6 million in building and remodeling projects. The request to the Legislature is for $305.8 million in state general obligation bond financing with $97.8 million in debt service financed by the system and its institutions. The top priority is $110 million in repair and replacement (HEAPR) projects for roofs and mechanical/electrical systems, as well as health/safety improvements, on nearly all 54 campuses. Funds are also being sought for 30 other capital improvement projects, which would largely add, replace or remodel classrooms, science labs and applied technology labs. Included on the list for RCTC are HEAPR funds, money to renovate vacated nursing labs, dollars for a portion of the co-located Workforce Center project and design funds for the next major construction project at UCR.
Employee News

Congratulations to Stan Cram (Vice President of Student Development and Services), on the arrival of his second grandchild, Sofia, born to Corrie (Stan’s daughter) and Brian Wagner on July 27, 2009, weighing in at 6 lbs 11 oz, and 19 inches long.

We are delighted to announce the birth of another grandchild for Rose Conway (Counseling Secretary/Receptionist). Patrick Michael Conway, born to Rose’s son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Karen Conway, arrived today, July 31st, weighing in at 7 lbs. 1 oz and 19 inches long.

We are delighted to announce the arrival of a “bundle of joy” to the family of Shannon Corcoran (Retail Merchandising Faculty/Program Leader) and her husband, Ryan Stinson, born July 24, 2009 at 8:40 a.m. Elijah John Stinson weighed 8 lbs 1 oz. and was 21 3/4 inches long! Congratulations Shannon and Ryan, and Welcome, Elijah!

Congratulations to Carrie Thiesse, on her marriage to Tony Hall on Friday, July 10, 2009. The ceremony took place in Mantorville and the new couple plan to hold a reception at a later date. Congratulations, Carrie Hall. We wish you and Tony the best!

Congratulations are extended to Heather Jungclaus (Security Officer) on her marriage to Brandon Sell! Heather and Brandon wed on Saturday, August 1 at First Lutheran Church in Lake City. Many of you might remember Brandon, who worked in Security while a student at the College.

Condolences

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing away of...

- Ray Reardon, (father-in-law of Dave Weber) on Thursday, August 13, 2009. Mr. Reardon was 78 years old.

- Verniece Staloch, mother of Roman Staloch (Building Maintenance Foreman) on Thursday, July 30. Mrs. Staloch was 83 years old.

- Ron Frana, uncle to Greg Frana (Media Services) on Thursday, July 23, 2009.

Our thoughts are with these employees and their families.

Elder Network

Are you at least 55 years of age and looking for an opportunity to make a difference in an older adult’s life? Join us at Elder Network. Please come to an information meeting on Thursday, August 20th at 10:30am. CLICK HERE for more information.
RCTC Athletic Department Fundraisers

- Thursday August 27th RCTC Athletic’s Kickoff @ Eagles Club 6-9 (food, DJ, silent auction, beer and wine tasting)

**Tickets will be on sale on Friday, August 21st at RCTC Staff Development. Come join in on the Fun!!!**
CLICK HERE FOR FLIER WITH MORE INFORMATION

- Saturday September 26th RCTC Athletic’s Homecoming Bash @ Eagles Club 4-Midnight (food, 10 Cent Biscuit-band, raffle, prizes, silent auction)
CLICK HERE FOR FLIER WITH MORE INFORMATION

- New Year’s Eve Family Fun Night at the UCR Regional Sports Center 4-9pm (face painting, games, slides, jumping toys, basketball, volleyball etc)
CLICK HERE FOR FLIER WITH MORE INFORMATION

- Volleyball T-shirt Fundraiser
CLICK HERE FOR FLIER WITH MORE INFORMATION

Leadership RCTC

RCTC is proud to again offer Leadership RCTC. This leadership development program will be offered during in a cohort-based model. The program resulted from ideas generated by RCTC’s 2004 Continuous Quality Improvement Network (CQIN) Team. The program is patterned after leadership programs offered by other community organizations locally and nationally, but topically focused on RCTC. An application form is attached. Interested persons for the upcoming cohort should complete and return their completed application to the RCTC Leadership Team. **Session dates** (Wednesday afternoons): September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16, January 20, February 17, March 24, April 21. Complete and return your application to Jennifer Nisbit, Box 2, or one of the RCTC Leadership Team members by September 4, 2009.

**Criteria**
Commitment and ability to attend the 8 sessions.
Interest in developing as a leader
Statement of leadership philosophy
Support from supervisor

**Cost**
There is no application or registration fee required to participate in the program.

**Objectives**
Create a better understanding of RCTC and its role in the community.
Develop an understanding of RCTC’s strategic vision, mission, values, and goals.
Develop relationships that foster growth and promote teamwork.

The Leadership RCTC Team: Jennifer Nisbit, Shelli Arneson, Heidi Feldman, Roxy Roadway, Joni Gamm, Tony Wolf

For more information, contact any member of the team.
CLICK HERE for application form.
Pre-Planning for Retirement

*LIFE PLANNING FOR YOUNGER STATE EMPLOYEES*

It may be difficult to think about retirement when you are young and early on in your work life, but in reality there is no better time! Follow these three easy steps, to help you protect your income and save big money over your entire career.

1. Protect your income with very inexpensive group insurance
2. Know about and plan ahead for huge expenses you could not otherwise afford
3. Make the most of tax deferral and employer matching dollars, "in effect an instant 50% or 100% return on your savings" (NY Times article, A Primer for Young People Starting Their First Job, June 14, 2008)
   http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/14/business/yourmoney/14money.html

It may seem difficult to think about now, but if you attend the Pre-Planning for Retirement seminar, designed specifically for young people employed with the State of Minnesota, you will learn about state benefits that are inexpensive, easy to access, and that allow you to do all of this and more. Create a solid future and join us for one of our upcoming seminars!

They are highly recommended by previous attendees.

Pre-Planning for Retirement
(one and a half days, spouses/partners may attend with you free)  http://www.admin.state.mn.us/mad/jdPrePlanningRetirement.htm

**Tue/Wed, September 22 & 23, 2009**
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. day one, and 8:30 a.m.-noon day two
Cost: $100 for one and a half days

*Retirement Systems Building of Minnesota 60 Empire Drive, St. Paul 55103*

Register here:  http://www.training.admin.state.mn.us/mad/. If you are a new user to the site, after clicking on the Register tab, click on the "Create New Account" link. If you have any questions, feel free to contact: Jill Deering Dentz, Employee Development Specialist Mgt Analysis & Development Minnesota Management & Budget at 651-201-2269,

jill.d.dentz@state.mn.us

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New Retirement Seminar for those Nearing Retirement

Are you getting close to retirement age and want to learn more about how to retire from state service. This seminar includes information about your retirement benefits (State Pension, Deferred Compensation, Social Security) highlighting the specific choices you will need to make before retiring and how to determine what your benefits will be. In addition, you will receive information about continuing your health insurance, changes in your tax handling as a retiree, how best to take retirement distributions when you need them and important estate planning tools. This class is not only enjoyable, but contains comprehensive information to help you make the transition from work to retirement with ease. Sign up for the retirement seminar today!

State Retirement Seminar (for employees close to retirement)
Wed/Thu October 21 & 22, 2009, St Paul College Auditorium
235 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul
8:30 am-4:00 pm day one and 8:30 am-3:15 pm day two
Cost $115 spouse/partner may attend for free

See full description, details, and parking information on our web page: http://www.admin.state.mn.us/mad/jdStateRetireSeminar.htm <http://www.admin.state.mn.us/mad/jdStateRetireSeminar.htm> Note link to registration at the bottom of the web page that contains the course description.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact: Jill Deering Dentz, Retirement Training Coordinator at jill.d.dentz@state.mn.us or Phone: 651-201-2269