College Crossings
Rochester Community and Technical College

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- Retail Merchandising in New York
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- Sacred Waters: Wisdom For a Thirsty World
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- Global Connection Days
- US Terrorism? Keynote

Best Bee Award
Congratulations to MerryBeth Gay for being selected as October's Best Bee!

Here is what her nominator had to say:
MerryBeth Gay is dedicated to the nursing program and supports the instructors well. She understand and listens to concerns and ideas for improvement. She is an ideal team player. She encourages feedback and opinions. She makes decisions based on what is best for the staff, students, and college. She re-evaluates each program in order to make changes to constantly improve the quality of teaching within nursing.

She is an advocate and supporter of the ELL PN program, which is concerned with student success. She goes the extra mile to assure that each student understands the program and that every student is well informed of the programs expectations. She is very professional and represents the nursing department and the college well.

MerryBeth Gay will receive an "up front" parking spot at UCR for the month of October. Thanks MerryBeth, for helping make RCTC great!

Minnesota Combined Charities Campaign
CHALLENGE 2: CHILI COOK-OFF:
10/11/06 in the Cafeteria - 11:30am - 1:00pm
The goal is to have at least 12 crock pots full of chili to sell for $3.00 a bowl. We can do this!! There will be a prize for the crock pot of chili that empties first! Winner will be announced on e-mail at 3:00 pm.
“Recipe must accompany the chili”. Prize can be picked up at Rose’s desk, SS133.

“Silent Auction”
Monday, October 2nd ~ Atrium 11:00am - 12:30 pm
Remember to bid on your favorite baskets at the Minnesota Combined Charities Challenge 1 on Monday, October 2nd. The auction will be held in the Atrium from 11:00am to 12:30pm! Winners will be notified by 3:00 pm.

Meeting Minutes
Click below:
http://www.rctc.edu/itma/html/meeting_minutes.html
Weekly funny…

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

And another thing -- I'm tired of you taking me for granite.

Marketing Fact

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women - The Clothesline Project
The Clothesline Project will be on display in the Atrium, Monday, October 2 through Wednesday, October 6. Miss Minnesota will be speaking in the Atrium, Tuesday, October 3, 12:00 pm. “Raise a Family, Not a Fist. Mayor Ardell Brede will proclaim Domestic Violence Month and introduce Miss Minnesota.

The Clothesline Project is a national art project started by women in Massachusetts as a memorial to the victims and survivors of domestic violence. The project involves designing shirts which reflect women's personal experiences with battering, rape, sexual assault, incest, child abuse, and prostitution. The shirts then are hung on a clothesline along with the story of woman the shirt is memorializing and are displayed in a public location. The purpose is to create a visual memorial to the casualties and survivors of the war against women.

The shirts on each Clothesline are designed by volunteer artists. Most of the artists did not know the woman or child they honored with a shirt but had brief information collected mainly from news accounts. Beginning in 1993, the Clothesline has included shirts designed by family members for their lost loved ones.

Sponsored by Student Life in conjunction with the Family Violence Coordinating Council in Olmsted County.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month
In 1945, President Truman selected the first week in October as “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.” In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to recognize the needs and contributions of people with all disabilities. In 1988, Congress lengthened the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 has helped to improve accessibility and remove employment barriers. However, more work is needed to eliminate workplace discrimination and ensure equal opportunities. Regardless of their aspirations to work, people with disabilities experience a 70% unemployment rate – the highest percentage of any group in the country.

The Courage Center, a medical rehabilitation facility serving people with physical disabilities and sensory impairments, recommends that when meeting, writing or speaking about a person with a disability you:

- Be Yourself. Treat the person the same as you would anyone else you meet.
- Respect the person's right to let you know what kind of help is needed. Use good judgment on whether or not to ask if the person needs your assistance.
- Talk directly to the person not to the person who may be with him or her.
- Be considerate and patient with the extra time the person might need to do or say things.
- Never start to push a person’s wheelchair without asking if you may do so.
- Remember that the person has many interests other than those associated with his or her disability.
- Always put the person first, then the disability. Say or write “person with a disability” rather than disabled person.

For more information and ideas, you can check the Courage Center web site at http://www.courage.org.

- Ricki Walters, Regional Diversity Trainer

Thank You
Thank you for your kind words of comfort and support after the recent death of our grandson. It means a great deal to know our RCTC friends are there for you.

- Barb Schultz and Ray Mikesh
On Wednesday, I testified at the MnSCU Biennial Budget Public Hearing at Ridgewater College in Hutchinson. As the final witness, my testimony echoed many of the comments shared by administrators, faculty and student representatives during the three-hour hearing. In a nutshell…The RCTC leadership team believes a balanced approach of increased state appropriation, continued reallocation of institutional operating budgets, and reasonable tuition increases is the best way to assure students continued access, affordability and quality programs and services. RCTC will continue to seek out ways to partner, work smarter and do more with less. But, we want and need to do more. We want to continue to improve accessibility by delivering additional instruction via the Web, offer more concurrent enrollment courses, utilize our investment in KSMQ public television for instructional programming, provide more scheduling options for students, deliver our student support services in a more student-friendly format, continue to enhance our information technology infrastructure, and provide incentives for faculty and staff to innovate. To do all this, and more, it’ll take more than just increased state appropriation and institutional reallocation. Student demands for enhanced programming and services will require a reasonable student tuition investment. A good place to begin the fiscal year 2008 budget discussions might be “144”…a one percent enrollment increase, four percent state appropriation increase, and four percent tuition increase. The MnSCU Board of Trustees will be provided a biennial budget request recommendation in October and the Board is expected to finalize the legislative request during their November meeting. The University of Minnesota has preliminarily indicated they will be seeking a 4.5 percent tuition increase for the 2007-08 academic year.

A couple of weeks ago I shared with you a summary of Measuring Up 2006: The National Report Card on Higher Education. I promised to summarize for you the Minnesota Report Card. Here it is…Minnesota compares well with most states in preparing students for and enrolling them in college. However, the proportion of high school students graduating within four years has declined since the early 1990s. Of those students who do graduate, more now enroll in college directly after high school. Over the same period, colleges and universities in Minnesota have more than tripled over the past 12 years.

Eighth graders consistently perform very well on national assessments in math and science.

Low-income eighth graders consistently perform very well in math, and Minnesota is currently a top performer on this measure.

A very large percentage of high school students take and score well on college entrance exams.

Ninety-two percent of secondary school students are taught by teachers with an undergraduate or graduate major in the subject they are teaching, the state’s a top performer on this measure.

Minnesota is a top-performing state in the likelihood that a high school student will enroll in college by age 19. Over the past decade, the chance for college by age 19 has improved in contrast to a national decline. However, proportionately fewer ninth graders graduate from high school in four years, of those who do graduate, more enroll in college.

Minnesota’s investment in need-based financial aid compares well with leading states, and the state has increased this investment since 1992. Nonetheless, the share of family income, even after financial aid, needed to pay for college has increased.

Minnesota has consistently performed very well on the percentage of freshmen at four-year colleges and universities who return for their sophomore year.

A very high proportion of students complete certificates and degrees relative to the number enrolled. This proportion has increased over the past 12 years, surpassing nationwide improvements on this measure.

The Minnesota Report listed these weaknesses…

- A very small proportion of eighth graders enroll in algebra, despite substantial improvement over the past 12 years.
- Minnesota is one of only two states in which the proportion of high school students enrolled in upper-level science courses has declined over the last 12 years.
- Very small proportions of eleventh and twelfth graders take and score well on Advanced Placement tests, even though these proportions have more than tripled over the past 12 years.
- The percentage of working-age adults enrolled part-time in college-level education or training has declined by eight percent, compared with a nationwide decline of twelve percent.
- Net college costs for low- and middle-income students to attend public colleges and universities represent about one-third of their annual family income.

Minnesota’s 2006 Report Card grades…


Congratulations to Judy Gust, BTEC/HIT instructor, who was awarded the Minnesota Business Educators, Inc. Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year at the association’s annual convention on September 22. Way to go, Judy!

*Don*