



# College Crossings

Rochester Community and Technical College

October 11, 2004  
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FALL SEMESTER EDITION

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## Attachments

- ❖ Continuous Quality Survey Results
- ❖ Digital Wall Guidelines

### Meeting Minutes

Click below:

[http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting\\_minutes.html](http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting_minutes.html)

## Meet the Candidate Day

RCTC and the Minnesota Campus Compact would like to extend an invitation for you to attend [Meet the Candidate Day](#), which is being held at the University Center Rochester. The Campus Compact is a national coalition of college and university presidents committed to the civic purposes of higher education. To support this civic mission, Campus Compact promotes community service that develops students' citizenship skills and values.

### MEET THE CANDIDATE DAY

Tuesday, October 12, 2004 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Atrium Center - University Center Rochester

Our greatest duty as citizens in a democracy is exercising our right to vote. But too few of us make use of the right for which so many have fought and died. For example, only 40 percent of eligible Americans voted in the 2002 congressional election - and that was the eighth consecutive congressional election in which fewer than half of eligible voters participated. To help reverse this abysmal trend of voter apathy, RCTC is participating in the National Campus Voter Registration Project which give students the opportunity to register and vote in the 2004 election. [Meet the Candidate Day](#) is part of a weeklong event during October 11-15 to encourage students to become civically engaged and to become registered voters. *Tuesday, October 12 is also the last day to register voters, with the exception on Registration Day voting, so there will be a voter registration table available in the Atrium on that day as well. Please let your students know that time is running short.*

### Digital Wall

UCR partners are welcome and encouraged to produce Powerpoints, videos, animations, etc. for the Digital Wall located on the first floor of the Atrium in front of the Media Services area. Jonathan Wetenkamp does the programming for the wall and would be the contact person for production details. Powerpoints are best sent to Johnathan as an e-mail attachment. We also recommend Powerpoints be created in 16:9 format. Audio is not required, but is desirable. Media Services has a collection of non-copyrighted music. Since December, 2003, we have had guidelines in place regarding technical quality and inappropriate content. That document is attached. Announcements would normally be displayed via the SCALA message systems and displayed on monitors throughout campus. Margie Barrows is the contact for these messages. In rare instances we might put an announcement on the Digi Wall, such as "evening classes are cancelled", welcoming the Governor, or other breaking news/information.

- Dale Pederson

Weekly Funny

SNAPSHOTS at jasonlove.com



**Marketing Fact**

According to last spring's Campus Quality Survey, 69% of RCTC faculty and staff agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend RCTC as a place to work, down from 73% the previous year. Of those, 33% strongly agreed that they would recommend RCTC as a place to work, up from 28% the previous year. For more details, see the attachment to this week's *Crossings*.

**Making Horses Academic**

By Dr. Pam Whitfield

RCTC students now have the opportunity to study horses, horsemanship and care in the classroom and the stable. But taking an equine science course is not just horsing around. These classes balance academic learning with hands-on practice and skill development. Anyone who enjoys horses, from the farm owner to the novice equestrian, can learn new information and skills.

In Introduction to Equine Science, students learn the basics of equine evolution, breeds and disciplines in the horse industry, anatomy, health care, and reproduction. Light Horse Management teaches more in-depth information about nutrition and feeding, horse handling and daily care, first aid and injuries, and facilities design. This class meets both in the classroom and at a local stable.

RCTC equine students have made field trips to stables, breeding farms, and horse-related businesses to study the Minnesota's horse industry in action. Equine nutritionists, horse breeders, veterinarians and horse trainers have donated their time and expertise as guest speakers during the classes. A life-size fiberglass horse procured through a grant from IBM allows students to practice skills and simulate activities like haltering, brushing and bandaging.

This spring RCTC will offer Fundamentals of Horse Handling and Training and Stable Management, both of which are three-credit courses. Watch your spring and fall schedules for equine science courses. For more information, contact Dr. Pam Whitfield at 280-5508 or pam.whitfield@roch.edu.

**Crossings Classifieds**

**FOR RENT:** Furnished one-bedroom apt. in lower level of my home. \$295/mo. Includes everything except phone. \$215/mo. for commuter using weekdays only. Sue Solberg: 285-7245 day, 288-9672 eve.

**Thank You**

Thank you for all the lovely cards, memorials, thoughts and kind words for my family and I in sympathy for the loss of my father. The azalea plant from RCTC was beautiful and in full bloom. We mourn his loss but celebrate his 91 years of life. "Special Thanks" to the Admissions and Registration Office for covering my duties while away.

*Bev Hawkinson*

# Supalla's Scribblings

With less than a month to go before the election, local, state and national candidates are turning up the rhetoric. Now is the time to get informed on how the candidates stand on higher education, ask tough questions ("If you're elected, will you increase funding for higher education? How much?"), write a letter to the editor supporting a pro-education candidate, take an unregistered voter to the polls when you go to vote.

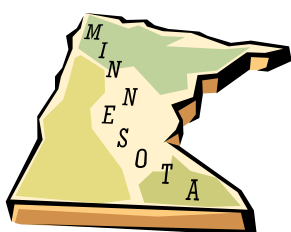


Chancellor McCormick has sent a letter to Peggy Ingison, Commissioner of Finance, regarding MnSCU's biennial budget request. In part, here's what the Chancellor wrote...

*Our colleges and universities are the primary tool for workforce development:*

- *Annually, we serve 240,000 students in credit-based courses and an additional 130,000 students in non-credit course, most of them workers receiving customized training.*
- *Each year, we graduate about 29,000 students, 80 percent of whom stay in Minnesota to work or continue their education.*
- *We enroll over half of the current students in the state's higher education sector.*
- *Our institutions are the lowest-priced option for a quality higher education in Minnesota.*
- *We accommodate non-traditional students looking to improve their skills and move rapidly back into the workforce.*
- *We serve more students of color than other higher education institutions in the state combined.*

At the same time our enrollment has been increasing, state support has been decreasing. Even before the \$191.5 million budget cut in the current biennium, state appropriation funding had declined from a high of \$5,148 in FY1999 to \$4,673 in FY2003, and has continued to decline to \$3,990 in FY2005. After adjusting for inflation, the FY2005 state funding per student for Minnesota state colleges and universities is comparable to that of FY1981. Our Board of Trustees is committed to our statutory mission of accessible and affordable high quality higher education. The potential for declining state support is troubling in the face of ever increasing demand and the state's expectation that our colleges and universities operate as open access, affordable community resources. We are particularly concerned at the prospect of tuition increases since we raised tuition nearly 60 percent in the past four years. The Board of Trustees will be meeting on October 20 to approve the FY2006-2007 biennial budget request. Based on their discussion, counsel from staff and comments from constituents, the Board believes that it is in the best interest of the colleges and universities to request additional funds for the FY06-07 biennium. We believe that new investment of \$66.5 million next biennium is needed to support the services and programs desired by our students, our citizens, our business partners and the communities we serve. This is the smallest request in MnSCU history, and seeks to reach a balance between meeting the increasing demands placed on our institutions and recognizing the difficult budget position of the state.



Last week I referred to *Measuring Up 2004*, the national report card for higher education. This week I'll focus specifically on the Minnesota highlights. Strengths: *Minnesota has performed better than most states over the past decade in providing an affordable higher education for students and families. Minnesota is among only a few states that have held the line over the past decade in the percentage of income that students and families pay to attend the state's two-year colleges. Minnesota eighth graders perform extremely well on national assessments in math, science, and reading. A large percentage of high school students take and score well on college entrance exams. Over the past decade, the likelihood of ninth graders enrolling in college within four years has increased substantially – one of the steepest increases in the nation. Minnesota is one of the few states in the country that has held the line in the proportion of family income, after financial aid, needed to attend its public two-year colleges. However, 19% of annual family income, on average, is still needed to attend a community college in the state. A large percentage of freshmen at community colleges return for their sophomore year. Over the past decade, Minnesota has been among the top states in improvement on this measure. A very high percentage of freshmen at four-year colleges and universities return for their sophomore year. Compared to other states, a large percentage of first-time, full-time students complete a bachelor's degree within six years. A very high proportion of students complete certificate and degrees relative*

to the number enrolled. Compared with other states, a high proportion of Minnesota residents have a bachelor's degree. Minnesota garners substantial economic benefits from having a highly educated workforce; these economic benefits have increase notably over the past decade. Weaknesses: A very small proportion of eighth graders enroll in algebra. Minnesota's eleventh and twelfth graders do not perform well on Advanced Placement tests. A fairly low percentage of working-age adults are enrolled part-time in college-level education or training. Over the past decade, the gap in college participation between whites and minority ethnic groups has widened. Likewise, the college participation rate for minority ethnic groups has declined substantially. Net college costs for low- and middle-income students to attend public four-year colleges and universities represent a third of their annual income. A complete national report and state-by-state information is available at [www.highereducation.org](http://www.highereducation.org).

During an awards and recognition ceremony conducted at the Olmsted County Sheriff's Department, Deputy Jason Christensen and Sgt. Kevin Torgerson, and retired Captain **Harry Kerr** were honored by their department and the U.S. Deputy Sheriffs' Association in the presence of family, friends and the media. Harry retired from the Sheriff's Department in 2003 after 30 years of service. He has been associated with the Sheriffs' Association as a defensive tactics trainer and advisor for over five years. For his support and countless hours of effort on behalf of the Association, Kerr was given the U.S.D.S.A. Distinguished Service Medal. Mr. Kerr is now a full-time instructor in RCTC's Law Enforcement Program. Congratulations, Harry!



**Thought for the Week...**

*"Don't fear failure so much that you refuse to try new things.*

*The saddest summary of a life contains three descriptions: could have, might have, and should have."*

**-- Louis E. Boone**

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather that has settled over Minnesota...it's bound to change before too long.

**Don**