



College Crossings

Rochester Community and Technical College

October 15, 2007
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FALL SEMESTER EDITION

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Attachments

(CLICK on links below to read)

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Blood Drives

October 24
December 5

Meeting Minutes

Click below:

http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting_minutes.html



RCTC Football Players Enjoy “Walk-to-School Day”

On October 3rd, elementary students in the Rochester School District enjoyed a visit from RCTC Football players and mascot "sting" for its annual "Walk-to-School Day." RCTC FB has been involved in this for the past 3 years and created many good relationships at Pinewood Elementary and Hoover Elementary (Schools that Players visited this year to interact with students). Players got a chance to meet future RCTC Yellowjackets, walk them to school, learn more about them and of course PLAY FOOTBALL with them.

"So many positive phone calls, E-mails and letters have come through my office about the great day our players had with these young boys and girls," said Coach Brad LaPlante. Comments from Public Health Coordinator, JoAnne Judge-Deitz, "The Assistant Principal was in awe of what the football players showed the students. What impressed him was their respectful attitude, the fact that they came early, in uniform, stayed late to talk with kids, interacted with the kids so well, responded to the student requests, played football with mobs of kids, and stayed to go into the EBD student classrooms. They sought out some of the kids that needed a little extra and knew how to draw them out."

LaPlante was also quoted saying "Our Football Program is more than you see on Saturday evenings, and this is just a small piece of the good that our players get to do for our school, community and football program."

A special thanks goes out to Coach LaPlante, the RCTC football players, International Student Jala Mvuala (Sting) and Colleen Landherr for helping to Coordinate this event year after year!

Weekly Funny

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



"I know: What if we take that old 'got milk' slogan, but instead of using the word 'milk,' we'll insert the name of our own product."

Raffle/Bake Sale

Please mark your calendars to stop by in the Atrium Monday and Tuesday, October 15th and 16th from 7:30 am-7:30 pm for the Bake Sale/Raffle we are having for our **2007 Minnesota State Employees' Combined Charities Campaign** event. If you want to donate some baked items for sale, please let me know by Friday afternoon or just surprise us in the Atrium with your goodies Monday morning or Tuesday morning.. Please refer to bake Sale/Raffle flyer attached to this week's *College Crossings*. Let's make this a good event with a great turn-out. Money will be donated in Olmsted County.

~Rose M Conway

Additional Precinct Caucus Date Added

Under state law, evening campus activities are limited on days on which precinct caucuses, state primary or general elections are held. Current Minnesota State Statute requires precinct caucuses to be held on March 4, 2008, but both the DFL and GOP parties have set precinct caucuses on February 5 in order for Minnesotans to be more involved in the upcoming federal elections. In order to comply with State Statute, and accommodate the new Caucus night, RCTC **will not hold activities or classes after 6:00 p.m. on both February 5, 2008 and March 4, 2008.** Please make appropriate adjustments to your classes to accommodate this additional date in order to encourage involvement with their caucuses. If Minnesota legislation changes when the Legislators reconvene in February, appropriate adjustments will be made.

Marketing Corner

What is the highest level of education obtained by your:

	Father	Mother
a. Not a high school graduate	9%	7%
b. High school diploma or GED	31%	28%
c. Some college, did not complete degree	13%	17%
d. Associate degree	14%	20%
e. Bachelor's degree	17%	15%
f. Master's degree/1st professional	8%	7%
g. Doctorate degree	3%	1%
h. Unknown	5%	5%

Results from the 2007 CCSSE survey.

RCTC's Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, Anna Pingree has been busy with the National College Fair and high school class presentations this past week. Next week she will be making on campus visits to Rushford and Red Wing.

Crossings Classifieds

COMMUNITY EVENT: Lecture on The Abandoned/ Rescued Horse. Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 7:00. Held in HB117. All welcome. Treats afterwards. For more details, go to <http://www.rec.info>.

COMMUNITY EVENT: Rushford Area Society for the Arts Presents: Floodapalooza! Sunday, October 21, 2007 1:00 pm to 9:30 pm at the Rushford-Peterson High School Gymnasium. There will be no charge for the event but we hope that you would help the cause and make a donation while you enjoy the fun too. All proceeds will go to flood victims through the fund at the Associated Bank of Rushford. For more information: call 507 251 9599.

FOR RENT: 3+ bedroom home with 2 baths in NW Rochester-one car attached garage. n/p, n/s. Available Nov. 1st -\$950. Call Joe 272-8864 or Rose Conway at x7260.

Fitness Center Closed for MEA

The Fitness Center will be closed from Thursday-Sunday (Oct. 18th - 21st.) for MEA. All of the Fitness Center staff have decided to go home for those four days. We will re-open at our normal time on Monday (Oct. 22nd) at 9am.

It's a Girl!

Congratulations to Bret Fuller (Dean of Teaching and Learning) and wife Linda on their birth of their daughter, Octavia Hermione on October 9th. Octavia was born at 7:20pm and weighed in at 8 pounds, 8 ounces and 22 inches long!

Supalla Scribblings



Let me begin with just a brief reminder to pay special attention to the e-mail that was distributed this week regarding a required revision to the academic calendar. The Legislature approved a state statute identifying the first Tuesday of March as precinct caucus night. As such, no education related activities can be conducted after 6 p.m. However, since adjournment, the state’s major political parties have agreed to move the caucuses to February 5, 2008. In order to comply with the statute and accommodate the February caucus night, RCTC will not hold activities or classes after 6 p.m. on both February 5 and March 4, 2008. If, when the legislature convenes in February, quick action is taken to change the statute; RCTC will reconsider the March 4 closing. In the meantime, please make appropriate adjustments to your curriculum and spring semester class schedules to accommodate this new development. Sorry for the inconvenience; thanks for your understanding!

RCTC is blessed with a student life program second to none in Minnesota, great music and theatre departments, terrific sports opportunities, Global Connections, Faculty Lecture Series, Visiting Scholars and a host of other opportunities for students and staff. If you didn’t take advantage of the opportunity to participate in one or more of the many events held on campus the last couple of weeks, you missed a great opportunity to share in learning activities outside our classrooms and labs. Staff and students work especially hard to produce high quality educational and entertainment opportunities. I urge you to give up an evening now and then, take in a daytime lecture or find some down time to support our talented students and colleagues.



As most of you know, RCTC elected to join a growing number of MnSCU institutions and participate in The Higher Learning Commission’s (formerly known as NCA) alternative accreditation process. As such, the College recently submitted our required *Systems Portfolio* for review by an appraisal team. This week the team returned its 41-page feedback report listing strengths and opportunities for improvement. Over the next few weeks and months, important aspects of the report will be shared widely, the feedback will be analyzed in much detail, and follow-up action plans developed. In the cover letter accompanying the *Systems Appraisal Feedback Report*, Stephen Spanghel, AQIP Director wrote: “Your *System Portfolio* will undoubtedly serve as a model for other colleges and universities...The Systems Appraisal team worked hard to identify both institutional strengths and opportunities for improvement. It is important that you not focus exclusively on the latter, but also discuss and celebrate your outstanding systems, process, and results.” I begin an ongoing sharing of feedback information with a few comments from the Executive Summary...

- RCTC has sought to make teaching and learning its central priority in its mission documents, values and the organizational structure of the College. There is evidence that aspects of assessing and improving student learning are becoming widespread across the College.
- Partnerships are clearly a strength for RCTC.
- RCTC has identified a manageable number of student segments to guide their effort in understanding student needs. The use of the life cycle model aids in understanding how student needs change over time. The College appears to do an excellent job of measuring and collecting data. Little evidence is presented that notes how faculty and staff are engaged in the process of responding to change and implementing improvement strategies.
- RCTC understands the importance of valuing people as reflected in the variety of programs in place to develop, recognize, and reward employees.
- RCTC has an expansive system for identifying student support service processes. Expanded use of the dashboard system will increase visibility of these processes and allow identification of appropriate improvement plans. In fact, RCTC has identified areas of dissatisfaction in its support services and is working to address them.
- RCTC has detailed internal processes for assessing leadership and has devoted attention to “leadership building.” Scoreboards bring data into focus for decision-making, and multiple communication approaches are utilized. However, communication and decision-making seem largely top-down, and the snapshot of comment card results provided is not particularly positive.
- RCTC is committed to measuring effectiveness through their participation in the Baldrige program, the use and planned expansion of the Balanced Scorecard and Dashboards, eLumen software and other tools and techniques.
- RCTC has been proactive through its methods for achieving continuous improvement. Those methods include campus-wide and community-wide surveys, the use of dashboards, and the use of the balanced scorecard approach. Most significantly, the institution has attempted to align its continuous improvement methods and activities with its Vital Few action projects and its strategic planning efforts.
- Due in large part to its location, RCTC has numerous opportunities to build relationships that enhance its ability to fulfill their mission. RCTC has a strong reputation within the Rochester community and surrounding area as a result of its focused efforts at relationship development.

Thought for the Week...*He who stops being better stops being good.* -- Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658)

This, my friends is what RCTC’s continuous improvement journey is all about. Let’s never stop being better!

Don

3rd ANNUAL SSSP BASKET CHALLENGE SILENT AUCTION

Proceeds benefit the SSSP Iris Fried Scholarship
December 5, 2007 ~ CF206/208
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Getting Ready for Christmas donated by Goddard Library



Home Movie Pack donated by Janell Holter

A few facts about last year's basket challenge:

- \$1,593 was raised from 41 baskets donated by
 - 11 departments
 - 9 individuals
 - 2 clubs
- Winning basket: \$80 for "Night Out" donated by the Counseling/Advising Center staff

*A variety of baskets in all price/size ranges is needed for this event.
Let's see if we can top last year!*

Donate early if you can. Retail Merchandising students will create a window display using some of the basket donations; bring your basket by **November 12th** to be considered for the display.

R.S.V.P. to Deb at 285-7230 with your intent to participate in this fundraiser.

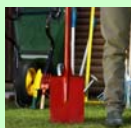
(Last day to submit baskets is Monday, December 3, 4 p.m.)

We look forward to seeing your creations!

Hort Club Fundraisers

RCTC Horticulture Club fundraiser: Liven up your interior for the winter months! Good variety of plants and sizes available at the RCTC Greenhouse at Heintz Center. Sale hours are Monday, October 15th from 4-6pm and Tuesday, October 16th from 11am - 4pm.

RCTC Horticulture Club fundraiser: Members of the RCTC horticulture club are available to "put your garden to bed" and/or prune small trees and shrubs on Saturday, October 20 or Saturday, October 27. \$10/hr/person for labor only (any supplies needed like mulch would be extra). Any interested person should contact Robin via email: robin.fruth-dugstad@roch.edu or phone: 529-6112.



*Growing for you,
Robin, Doug, and Hort students*

Women's Self-Defense Class

Last week I ran a women's self-defense class for Staff Development Day and we had a great time. A lot of people requested that I extend the class to a six-week program, and I'd like to do that, so we now have a room arranged for that purpose. (Thanks, Mona!) We will meet in SC 202 (the dance studio) on Wednesday afternoons at 3:00pm. The dates we'll meet are: 10/24; 10/31; 11/7; 11/14; 11/28 & 12/5.

From 3:00-4:00 we will review previous techniques and learn new skills, and from 4:00-5:00 we will have additional time to practice, and to cover specific questions or scenarios that concern you. (As such, if you can only commit to an hour a week, please feel free to come just from 3:00-4:00, and you'll still learn a lot from the class.)

The class is open to women only (for safety reasons I'll explain at our first meeting), but it is not limited to faculty and staff. On the contrary, please encourage your female students to attend! (And your family, friends, and co-workers, for that matter!) The class is free, and the only thing you need to bring is a good attitude. If you've got questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at x2815 or steve.bein@roch.edu

*Stay safe!
~ Steve Bein*

Club Meetings

Martial Arts Club meets Tuesday and Thursday in SC108 from 6-8pm.

Information Session

It's that time again! In our ongoing effort to communicate information about how things are changing within RCTC Teaching and Learning, T/L leadership invites you to our sixth Comprehensive Information Session, scheduled for Monday, October 15, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Room: EA103.

We have received good comments about these sessions in the past, and we are pledged to keep things to one hour. Here is our tentative schedule:

Mike Bequette	overview
Nirmala Kotagal	changes/additions in health sciences
Jay Lee	changes/additions in Career and Technical Education
Barb Mollberg	changes/additions in Teaching and Learning
Bret Fuller	changes/additions in Teaching and Learning
Michelle Pyfferoen	changes/additions in Business and Workforce Education
Scott Sahs	changes/additions in Education Technology
Dale Pedersen	changes/additions in the Goddard Library

There should be ample time for questions. We urge you to attend. There is a lot going on, and much of it may impact the way you do your work. **Most of the content includes changes and additions since the last catalog.**

~Mike Bequette

Veterans to Speak on Campus

I would like to announce that I will have two WW II veterans speaking on campus in recognition of Veterans Day. They will speak on Friday 11/9 in SH 110. The campus is welcome. Earl Jorgensen will speak at 8 AM and Russ Gunvalson will speak at 9 A M - both are ex prisoners of war.

~Tom Hosier