Service Learning Project a Success!

Thanks to Child Development students and their instructor, Stacey York for organizing games, activities and treats for a Halloween party, Friday, October 30th at RCTC Heintz Center. Military families enjoyed being escorted by RCTC Football Players as they played games, decorated cookies, were entertained by a pumpkin carver, clowns and a magician. Dental Hygiene students decorated in the afternoon and helped decorate “goodie bags” in the evening. In addition, Dental Hygiene students donated toothbrushes and tooth paste to all children who attended and presented certificate awards to eight costume winners. The evening was a joint collaboration between RCTC and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Southeastern Minnesota Committee. Just one example of how to make Service Learning a fun and rewarding experience.

*Lynn Guenette & Colleen Landherr Maddox
Service Learning Co-Coordinators*

Made in the USA Apparel Available in Bookstore

The bookstore is now selling apparel items that were made in the USA. See our website to view the clothing pictures at: http://bookstore.roch.edu/home.aspx

The short sleeve t-shirts are $17.99 and long sleeve ones are $19.99. The socks are $6.99. There are also USA made hats and mittens so stop in and pick some up soon!

*Photo Credit: Jamie Prasser*
International Education Week
An International Education week celebration is planned for November 16-18 at UCR. If advisors of other International or cultural clubs are interested in participating, they may contact Glen Saponari at x5511. Click here for more info.

MILK MOOLA for Upward Bound – Please Save!
Please save Kwik Trip MILK MOOLA caps and bag tops found on your favorite Nature’s Touch Milk, Orange Juice, Water and Kwik Quencher products or the price ovals from Dozen or Half-Dozen boxes of Glazer donuts. Upward Bound will earn 5c for each Nature’s Touch cap or bag top and 10c for each Glazer price oval turned in for redemption. Route your caps to Box 53 – Upward Bound. This will continue until next August 2010. Thank you.
~ Suzanne Norsving

Business Office/Veteran’s Day Holiday
Wednesday, November 11, 2009, Veteran’s, the Business Office and Cashier’s Office will be open; however, several staff will be observing the Veteran’s Day Holiday, so there will be limited services.

Academic Accolades
Pam Whitfield recently presented a talk about freshman research writing at the International Feminisms and Rhetorics conference in East Lansing, Michigan. She’s also been accepted to present similar work at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Louisville, KY, next March.

North Star Bowl
Make plans now to attend the North Star Bowl held on the UCR campus on Saturday, November 21st. http://www.rochsports.org/2009northstarbowl.php

Thank You
RCTC Faculty and Staff: Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. Your kindness and support is so greatly appreciated at this time.
~ The family of Cheri Clark
Jamie Johnson

Mark Your Calendars!

Annual UCR Holiday Reception
Wednesday
December 2, 2009
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Heintz Center Commons
Tuesday evening Bob Morris and I returned from a two-day MnSCU Leadership Council meeting in Moorhead. The primary topic of discussion was, “Lessons Learned: 2009 Flood.” The workshop focused on emergency preparedness and used last spring’s record flooding in the Red River Valley as a real-life learning experience. The amazing efforts of the faculty, staff and students of both Minnesota State University – Moorhead and Minnesota State Community and Technical College were truly amazing. We were able to bring back some “best practices” and “lessons learned” information that would be very beneficial should RCTC ever be faced with an emergency on campus. One never knows when RCTC could be faced with a flood, fire, tornado, extended power outage, chemical spill, airplane down on campus or any number of other potential incidents. Moorhead city and higher education representatives urged attendees to PLAN BIG (always expect the worst) and be prepared to deal with what became a common phrase on campus…”it’s so yesterday” (STAY FLEXIBLE as things were changing rapidly from day-to-day, often hour-to-hour). While we were in Moorhead, we took time for extended visits to both the university and community and technical college campuses. Both Bob and I were impressed with the kindness extended by staff, technology and the condition of their up-to-date facilities. Should the opportunity to visit another MnSCU campus present itself, I encourage you to make the visit.

Did you know…

- RCTC’s FY09 MSCF FTE (259) ranked #4 among MnSCU’s 25 two-year colleges. Only Century College (345), Normandale Community College (333), and Minnesota State Community and Technical College’s four campuses (281) employed more full-time equivalent faculty than RCTC.
- In the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, only Minneapolis CTC enrolled more disabled students (491) than RCTC in FY08 (the most recent system-wide data). During the 2007-08 academic year, RCTC enrolled 487 disabled students; 6.5% of all enrollments. RCTC’s 6.5 percent compares with a 2.6% average for all two-year colleges, 2.2% for the state universities, and 2.5% for all 32 MnSCU institutions. These impressive numbers are the result of the excellent work of Travis Kromminga and faculty and staff who provide much appreciated guidance and accommodations.
- The MnSCU Board of Trustees is expected to approve a mission change for St. Cloud Technical College at its upcoming November Board meeting. If approved, the college would become a comprehensive college, delivering both career and technical and liberal arts education. If approved, the college is recommending that their name be changed to St. Cloud Technical and Community College. Speaking of college names, when in Moorhead, we learned that the four-campus Minnesota State Community and Technical College has decided to unofficially shorten its name to M State. Stay tuned for other potential college or university name changes.
- The November 1 edition of The Chronicle of Higher Education featured an article, “Learning Goes Under a New Microscope,” about the new health-science major being designed and delivered at UMR. The article highlights the program’s unified curriculum, unique faculty organizational structure, and data collection and analysis plans.
- This month’s edition of Campus Technology magazine features an article, “Most College Students To Take Classes Online by 2014.” The article notes that…Nearly 12 million post-secondary students in the U.S. take some or all of their classes online right now. But this number will skyrocket to more than 22 million in the next five years. Some 1.25 million students in higher education take all of their classes online, while another 10.65 take some of their classes online. The two groups are still outnumbered by students who take all their courses in physical classrooms. But this situation will change drastically by 2014, at which time, the forecast is that only 5.14 million students will take all of their course in a physical classroom, while 3.55 million will take all of their classes online, and 18.65 million will take some of their classes online.
- The “New York Times” (10/31) reports, “Almost 40 percent of the nation’s 18-24-year-olds in 2008 were enrolled in college, a record number,” according to a recent Pew Research Center report, which indicated that “the rise was driven almost entirely by a surge in students attending community colleges.” The Associated Press (10/30) reports, “Virtually all the increase of 300,000 students over the previous year came at two-year schools, while attendance at four-year schools remained flat. Community colleges almost certainly saw attendance go up at least that much again this year, though final figures are not yet available. Overall college attendance has been going up for about 30 years; what’s new is the sharp uptick at community colleges, driven in large part by recessionary bargain hunting and closer ties between two- and four-year colleges that give students more confidence they’ll be able to transfer.”

Thought for the Week…
In order to succeed we must first believe that we can.
– Michael Korda

Do you believe? ~Don
Martial Arts Club

RCTC Martial Arts Club meets on Mondays from 7:00-9:00 PM in SC 108, and Thursdays from 8:00-10:00 PM in SC108. Learn kickboxing, jiujitsu, and more. No experience needed. Come train with us for a month and get a FREE club T-shirt! *(While supplies last.)* Questions? E-mail Dr. Steve Bein at steve.bein@roch.edu

You’re Invited

Get ready for the 5th Annual Iris Fried Scholarship Basket Challenge and SSS/UB Holiday Party and Silent Auction. We are challenging departments to create basket donations for the event. Baskets are needed in all sizes and values. **This year the prize will be awarded to the individual/department that raises the most money.** Think about donating multiple baskets. Have fun creating; place a value on your basket(s) and bring to SSS (SS159) by Monday, November 30. (Baskets received earlier may be displayed on campus). Please plan to join us on Thursday, December 3rd from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in CF206/208 for treats and bid on the basket(s) of your choice. Contact Deb at 285-7230 for more information. **Proceeds benefit the SSS Iris Fried and UB Scholarship funds – TriO**

Adopt-A-Family

CHOICES is again organizing our Adopt-a-Family Holiday Program for our low income displaced homemakers who have children. This is for families who would otherwise either go without Christmas presents for their children or have a pretty meager Christmas. Through our program, an individual, group, or department
- adopts a family,
- receives a “wish list” of items the family members need or want such as winter wear, groceries, clothing, and toys,
- purchases items for the family from their “wish list”
- wraps the gifts
- and drops them off at CHOICES’ office at the Heintz Center, HA116F

The family picks up their gifts from CHOICES or CHOICES delivers the gifts to those without transportation. Deadlines are below:
- Oct 27 – Nov 8 - Potential Donors contact CHOICES by email or phone to sign up.
- Nov 8 – Nov 2 - Potential Recipients are matched with donors.
- Nov 24 - Donors receive their families’ “wish list”
- Dec 14 – Dec 16 - Donors drop off gifts for their family at CHOICES’ office
- Dec 18 – Dec 21 - Recipients pick up gifts for their family

If you or your group is interested in being a donor for our program, please email me or contact my office at 280-5510 or 280-5517. Please indicate the size of a family you wish to work with, i.e., one parent and 2 children, etc.

~Susan Valvoda-Swanson - CHOICES
Rochester Community and Technical College
AFSCME Labor/Management
Minutes for Thursday, September 17, 2009 – 1:30 p.m. – AT109

Present: Administration: Cram, Engelmeyer, Siefert (representing Marilyn Hansmann), Supalla
AFSCME: Conway, Drenckhahn, Edwardy, Martin (Business Agent), O’Dea, Tucker
Guests: Jerry Becker, Kevin Clark, Cris Kellas, Marty Leonard, Roman Staloch
Recorder: Kingsbury

ITEM 1 (AFSCME) GMW Software Workshop Needed – Conway questioned if the GMW employees would be trained on the new software to be able to view the information, or if the software is only intended for the supervisors. Kellas responded the system is similar to the Work Order System currently in use, where there are different levels that range from view only all the way to an administrative level that has the capability to manipulate the data. Kellas also clarified that the current software is only a demo package and does not yet contain the specific UCR facilities. Staloch added once the software is installed and operational, the committee will be involved in the next steps. Supalla questioned when the software will be implemented and Kellas responded it should be operational by the next Labor/Management meeting. Martin stated AFSCME will be meeting with Vice Chancellor King about assessment and he plans to sing praises about the process RCTC has followed to get to this stage of implementation. A brief discussion followed on who determines what priority level an area is assigned. Kellas confirmed input will be taken into consideration, but the software has the capability to determine a priority level for the areas. Action: Anyone interested in having view only rights for the new software should contact Kellas.

ITEM 1 (Admin) GMW Area Study Progress – Martin questioned the status on the GMW Area Study. Becker responded the recommendations for all levels are complete and the next step is for the committee to complete their recommendation and send it out campus-wide through managers and program leaders for input. Supalla thanked Becker for his work on the project. Action: The GMW Area Study will be shared campus-wide through Program Leaders and Department Managers.

ITEM 2 (AFSCME) and ITEM 2 (Admin) Tobacco Use and Sales Policy (5.18.2) – Supalla announced the current draft Tobacco Use and Sales Policy is supported by faculty and college-wide input has been solicited by all employees with strong support for implementation. Action: AFSCME supports the Tobacco Use and Sales Policy.

ITEM 3 (AFSCME) Use of Intermittent Employees Follow-up – Supalla questioned if there were still concerns about the hours offered to intermittents. Drenckhahn responded the hours appear to be distributed fairly. Action: Staloch and Kellas will continue to follow-up with Intermittents.

ITEM 4 (AFSCME) H1N1 Preparedness – Supalla announced a community task force has been meeting regarding the potential of utilizing the UCR Regional Sports Center in the event of an H1N1 pandemic, and RCTC was recently invited to the planning meetings. Engelmeyer reported a couple of staff have been ill, but issues raised by employees (i.e. triggering FMLA leave immediately) aren’t practical. Engelmeyer added, however, that jobs will not be in jeopardy because of sick leave absences. Martin questioned if a sick room had been considered on campus. Engelmeyer responded it is being recommended by the Center for Disease Control that employees and students who are sick not report to work/school. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 3 (Admin) Video Surveillance Policy (6.4.3.1) – Supalla announced the draft policy has been well received for safety and security reasons, but the faculty requested the draft be reviewed by General Counsel for data privacy issues. Martin agreed video surveillance can be very useful if used in an appropriate manner, noting Central Lakes was not using cameras for safety and security, but rather to determine when employees were arriving to and leaving from work. Staloch confirmed the videos would be used for security and safety. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 5 (AFSCME) Staff Only Restrooms - Conway requested Administration consider designating the two restrooms near Counseling to be Staff Only in order to accommodate the 58 staff in the area serving students. Conway stated the two restrooms are unisex and not handicap accessible. Cram questioned if signage would be enough to deter students from using the restrooms. Staloch responded he did not believe signage would be enough, and that hardware for locks would need to be installed. Martin questioned if the campus does not currently have staff only restrooms, how it could be determined if signage would or would not be enough; adding a process for distributing keys or installing pushbutton access may be setting up other issues of concern. Supalla stated the men’s restrooms in the College Center building are not busy, but if the restrooms by Counseling are needed for staff, perhaps only one could be designated “Staff Only” to allow access for students in the other restroom. Siefert stated the restroom was designated for staff only at one time, but it was decided to make it open access for a couple of reasons, one being students needed to compose themselves after leaving the Counseling Department. Conway stated that is not the case, but rather
students compose themselves in the counselor’s office before leaving the area. Action: One of the restrooms in the Counseling Area will be designated “Staff Only” with signage.

ITEM 4 (Admin) Veteran’s Day Holiday – Engelmeyer confirmed that the practice of allowing employees to work on Veteran’s Day and bank their holiday hours would be honored again in 2009. Action: Engelmeyer will send an e-mail to all eligible employees requesting the employee notify their supervisor if they plan on working on Veteran’s Day.

ITEM 5 (AFSCME) BESI (Early Separation Incentive) – Conway questioned if RCTC would utilize the Early Separation Incentive program offered by MnSCU. Supalla responded Administration is committed to making a decision by mid-October as to whether RCTC will include the program in the College’s Business Plan. Action: Supalla will communicate Administration’s decision on whether to include BESI in the College’s Business Plan by October 15, 2009.

Adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 11, 2009 – 1:30 p.m. – AT102