RCTC Foundation Board addresses scholarship deficits

At the December meeting of the Rochester Community and Technical College Foundation, the board of directors reviewed their adopted spending policy and voted unanimously to revise the policy for fiscal year 2003. The impact of this change will drastically affect the amount of scholarship awards for the upcoming academic year. Due to three years of negative investment earnings, the unrestricted funds available for scholarships at RCTC Foundation have shrunk. When endowed funds are established, the contribution is restricted and cannot be spent. Only the investment earnings, called unrestricted funds, can be used to pay out scholarship awards. For some established endowments, donors continue to make contributions, but request that the additional funds be added to the endowment, also restricting the use of these new contributions. During the 1990’s, we witnessed an unprecedented bull market in which earnings growth increased the unrestricted funds available for spending. Now however we are experiencing the worst market downturn in history. The investment committee for RCTC Foundation has worked diligently to create an investment policy that is prudent and sensible. As the foundation’s assets have grown, the foundation expanded its asset allocation to spread risk and maximize gains. Those decisions are regularly reviewed with adjustments made if needed. The foundation works with local broker Salomon Smith Barney to provide professional guidance and investment services. The board’s action regarding scholarship spending this year is to spend 2% of the 5 year rolling average of the fair market value of its net investments. After years of spending 5-7%, this will be a steep decline. Unfortunately, the need from students is at an all-time high. Tuition hikes, lack of employment opportunities, increasing taxes and the high cost of living continue to pressure our students. As an employee at RCTC, you should have received a letter at your home asking you to generously support the RCTC Foundation. Now more than ever, your help is needed. As your ponder your year-end giving options, please consider making a contribution to RCTC Foundation and earmark the gift for scholarships. The funds will be awarded this spring for scholarships, increasing the number of student awards and enhancing the amount available. You CAN make a difference and I encourage you to contact the RCTC Foundation to find out more.

You are invited to the University Center Rochester

HOLIDAY RECEPTION

Thursday, December 19 from 2:00 to 4:00pm
Heintz Center Commons Area
- Sponsored by the Administration –
There will again be a sharing tree for teddy bears.
Food Service hours
Please note that all food service locations will be closed the following days:

December 23rd through the 27 and January 1st

Limited Service:
December 30, 31 and January 1st though the 10th.

SSSP Holiday Party and Silent Auction
Thursday, December 12, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Student Support Services office area SS160 – SS168
We have many beautiful items from around the world to bid on, some of which are listed on an attachment to this week’s Crossings. All proceeds benefit the SSSP Iris Fried Scholarship fund. Come ring in the holidays with staff and peers, enjoy a variety of food, good cheer, conversation and bid, bid, bid!!!. Thank you to Upward Bound, Disability Services, International Advisor, Perkins, Minority Services and Iris Fried for their continued support of this annual fundraiser.

New RCTC concert series!
“Circuits and Skins”
Featuring the RCTC student electronic music composers and the RCTC World Drum Ensemble.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hill Theatre
Come and hear original music and video compositions as well as the wonderfully rhythmic World Drum Ensemble. The newly installed “Surround Sound” system will be used by these talented student composers.

A reception will follow the concert. See you there!
Supalla’s Scribblings

It’s hard to believe, but the expected bad state budget news got even worse on Wednesday with the state projection of a $4.56 billion deficit over the next 2½ years. This projection is the one that incoming Governor Tim Pawlenty will use as he drafts his biennial budget that will be submitted to the legislature by mid-February. This huge deficit does not bode well for any state service or agency, including higher education or MnSCU. As you know, MnSCU has submitted a responsible, hold-the-line budget request of $107.6 million. This request includes $67.3 million for inflation, $12 million for repair and replacement projects, and $28.3 million for strategic investments (access and diversity, health education, teacher education, information technology, and instructional equipment). The request assumes a three percent average tuition increase per year. This conservative budget request comes at time when demand for MnSCU education has never been higher. The number of students enrolled in MnSCU credit-based courses increased by 8,673 students (5.5 percent) in fall 2002. MnSCU’s 34 colleges and universities now serve 235,370 students annually in credit-based courses and 129,890 students in non-credit courses. Over the past decade, public higher education’s share of the state budget has declined from near 20 percent to about 10 percent. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have questions regarding the MnSCU biennial budget request. Stay tuned for the Governor’s budget proposal and the next state projection due out in late February or early March.

On December 3, St. Cloud State University and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System reached a proposed settlement agreement with faculty members who filed a class-action lawsuit alleging they were victims of anti-Semitism. Under the terms of the agreement, several faculty members will share in a large cash settlement, the university will create a new Jewish Studies and Resource Center, and implement several other actions.

Last year, MnSCU initiated a phased-plan to conduct financial audits at all colleges and universities. Five state universities were included in the first round of audits that concluded recently. In December, Office of the Chancellor staff will present a FY03 plan that includes full financial statement audits for six additional institutions, including RCTC. The primary factor for selection of the institutions to be audited was size, in terms of revenues. In addition to RCTC, the following institutions will also be audited in 2003: Minneapolis CTC, Century CTC, Southwest State University, Hennepin Technical College, and Metro State University. These audits will require an extraordinary effort on the part of staff and the cooperation of all factions of the college. Marilyn Hansmann will share additional information and periodic updates as the audit process unfolds.

Congratulations to Chrisanne Pieper, Coordinator of RCTC’s Learning is ForEver (LIFE) Program, who recently learned that the Minnesota Humanities Commission has awarded the program a $6,000 Learning in Retirement Network Grant!

Gary Peterson, Food Service Manager at RCTC, joined more than 150 colleagues from across the United States at the Taher Annual Management Seminar held November 6-8 in Minneapolis. This year’s agenda was focused on the theme, Executing Our Mission, Delivering Beyond What Our Customers Expect. Thanks, Gary. We appreciated the excellent food and service you and your staff provide.

The Yellowjacket football team brought home a beautiful runner-up trophy from the Dalton Defenders Bowl held in Coffeyville, Kansas on December 1. Those Division I teams are really tough. Congratulations on a great season!

The Office of the Chancellor recently requested information for the biennial budget publication that will be used to tell our story to legislators and others. In addition to the usual institutional profile information, this year the publication will include information about one or two significant institutional accomplishments and a list of 20-30 partnerships with businesses or community groups. We have submitted three significant accomplishments: establishment of a $50,000 line item budget to fund the assessment of student learning
initiative, contribution of $100,000 from general operating funds to offset the loss of state work-study funding, and establishment of an international studies program. RCTC also submitted an impressive list of almost 70 partnership activities. Thanks to each of you who have contributed to the ongoing effort of building bridges between RCTC and the community. I look forward to sharing the partnership initiatives that are selected for publication.

Stress often accompanies the end of the semester and a hectic holiday season. I read an article that indicated the typical symptoms of stress are: eating too much, impulse buying, and driving too fast. Who are they kidding? That’s my definition of a perfect day! Best wishes for a relaxing last few weeks of the semester.

Don

Spring 2003 Parking Permits
The parking permits for Spring Semester 2003 are now available for purchase in the Cashier's office, SS124. Please purchase and display your permit by Friday, January 17. If you purchased an annual parking permit in August/September 2002, that permit is sufficient for spring. You will not need to purchase another permit. REMEMBER: The amount charged for the permit is based upon the hours you will work in Spring Semester. Permits for instructors are calculated using $2.50 per credit hour taught; staff permits are calculated by the hours worked per week. The maximum amount charged is $37.50 for Spring Semester. Ellen Browning in the Cashier's Office, Extension 7311, can help you calculate the amount. If you prefer to send the payment by inter-office mail, please forward it to Ellen at Box #9.

BOOK FAIR THIS WEEK!!! - Low, low, low prices
Pick up books and other great gift ideas!!

Tuesday, December 10 in the Atrium from 9:00am – 6:00pm
Sponsored by CAB

Condolences
Condolences are extended to Larry Segar whose mother passed away. Our thoughts are with you and your family.
Search Update

FACULTY
Temporary part-time for spring semester; various disciplines.

MAPE (Classified)
ITS2. Position has been posted/advertised.

MAPE (Unclassified)
College Recruiter (MnSCU Program Director 1). Nate Smith has been appointed.
Senior Programming Coordinator (MnSCU Program Director 1). Applications are being reviewed.
MnSCU Program Director 1 – Academic Advisor (two positions). Positions have been posted.

MAPE (Classified)
Information Technology Specialist 2 (UFT). Server Technician. Position has been posted/advertised.

AFSCME
General Maint. Worker (Intermittents). Applications accepted ongoing.
General Maint. Worker (2 UPT positions). Positions have been posted. Scott Clark has been appointed to one position; applications are being reviewed for second position.
Campus Security Officer. Finalists have been identified; appointment pending.
Office and Administrative Specialist (UFT). Position has been posted/advertised.

For information on any of the above openings, contact the human resources office at x7125 or visit our website at http://www.roch.edu/rctc/hr/

Applied Music Recital
Tuesday, December 18, 2002 – starting at 12:00 Noon – CC206
Come and listen to these talented students as they showcase their talents. All are welcome and the event is free of charge.

Worst First winners
In case you missed them on the wall of the tunnel, the winners of the “Worst Firsts” contest are attached to this week’s College Crossings.