December Team Best Bee Award

Congratulations to the Media Services/ITV Staff for being selected as RCTC’s Best Bee Team for December 2006!!

Here is what their nominator had to say:
“All the Media Services/ITV staff provide fast and friendly support for all my ITV classes. I have seen them provide excellent service to all of our foreign students and staff. They always seem to commit themselves to providing a comfortable and open educational environment.”

Salvation Army Thrift Store for the Grand Opening

Congratulations to Suzanne Dinusson (Retail Merchandising Program Coordinator) and the Retail Merchandising and Interior Decorating students. Suzanne and her students were recently recognized and presented with an award by Captain Thomas McComb of the Rochester Salvation Army as a thank you for the over 400 hours of work they have done fall semester for the Grand Opening of the new Salvation Army Thrift Store. Over the last few months students selected paint colors, found a local paint store (Struves, who discounted the paint) and painted the walls of the new location. Other students created a visual display area in the front window of the store building, elevated space, located wood, and installed carpet from Carpet One. Another person built a visual display space. The students also found fabric to drape through the window in the colors of the Salvation Army, and secured mannequins from Talbots. Students merchandised both clothing and home items. Hangers were secured by students from retailers where they work such as Old Navy and Macy’s. Hanny’s donated men’s wood pant hangers to hold signs indicting categories of clothing on each rack. Color wheel bracelets were created by a student so that when merchandising clothing, the clothes would be hung by style and color. Rachel Pierce, a student in the Retail Merchandising Interior Decorating program, and an employee of Home Depot continues to go to the Salvation Army every Tuesday at 9:00 AM to redo the visual display window.

Way to go, Suzanne and your students!
And a special thank you to the local businesses for their support of this project.
Marketing Fact
Community colleges train close to 85% of first-responders: firefighters, law enforcement officers, and EMTs. [Source: American Association of Community Colleges, Fact Sheet, 2004.]

Horticulture Last Sale Days!
Poinsettias - Fraser Fir Wreaths
Boxwood Trees – Kissing Balls - Centerpieces
Heintz Center HH126 (greenhouse)
Mon. Dec. 11 & Wed. Dec. 13: 2-4pm
Growing for you, Robin, Vern, & Horticulture Students

Art Sale – Mark Your Calendar!!!!!
The art faculty and students will be coming together to sell the fruits of their labors at unbelievably low prices! For the first time ever, this year's sale on December 12th from 9am to 1pm in AH200 will feature work not only from ceramics but also photography and painting. So take down those mass produced posters and reproductions in your home and work areas and replace them with something truly original! Forget the sweater and the socks - plan on getting a unique hand crafted work for the special person on your list! All proceeds will go to the Art Club.

Crossings Classifieds
Wanted: Origins game, last made a decade ago. Do you have one you want to sell? Call Audrey Lidke at 288-8726 or x7469.

For Sale: 1996 Ford Taurus GL, very good condition, clean, no rust, 164K miles. Car does not have overdrive so wouldn't be good for highway driving. Has been an excellent in town car for a few years. Would be a good first car or a "grocery getter". $1,300 obo. Julie Enquist or Barry @ 292-8937.

For Sale: Infant bathtub - S5, Ocean Wonders Fisher Price bouncy seat - $10, Evenflo Aura Elite infant car seat and 2 bases - $100 or best offer. Contact Sue Danielson at sue.danielson@roch.edu or 285-7513 or 289-3109.

Club Meetings
Martial arts club will meet 12/11 from 8-10pm in SC108
Martial arts club will meet 12/13 from 7-9pm in SC108
Circle of Friends will meet 12/13 from 12-1pm in EA236

Condolences
Condolences are extended to Max Gernand whose brother Dwight passed away on December 4.

Condolences are also extended to Ardyce Gibbs whose mother, Lucille Glende, passed away on December 3. Our thoughts are with these employees and their families.

Parking Permits
Spring Semester parking permits are now available in the Cashier's Office.
Supalla Scribblings

It seems almost unbelievable that we’re just one week away from the end of the semester. As always seems to be the case with just a few days to go in the semester, there’s an increasing electricity in the air, a frantic pace in the halls, and a last-minute frenzy to get assignments, finals and holiday activities completed. Once the semester is over, I do hope that all of you find some much deserved time to rest, relax and recreate with family and friends.

MnSCU has released its 2008-09 legislative budget request. If funded, the request would add $177 million to the current $1.2 billion base appropriation. The Board of Trustees approved a request that includes $57 million for inflation, $70 million in technology and infrastructure improvements, $24 million for recruitment and retention of groups traditionally underserved and underrepresented and $26 million for academic innovations. Included in the proposal was the anticipation of $98 million in other revenue…$73 million generated from a four percent tuition increase and $25 million from the reallocation of existing funds. In addition to the biennial budget request, the Board also forwarded a $33.8 million capital request that includes $30 million in asset preservation, repair and replacement and $3.8 million for property acquisition at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and Bemidji State University. RCTC is very interested in making certain that the capital request is funded as the #1 project on the list is $3.5 million for asbestos abatement and roof replacement at UCR’s Heintz Center.

Did you know…

- RCTC’s Business and Workforce Development nomination for a national Bellwether Award was one of just ten finalists selected from across the country. The proposal highlighted Custom Training’s innovations in on-line learning for the healthcare workforce. All finalists will deliver a presentation for consideration of the award at the Community College Futures Assembly in Florida, January 27-30. Congratulations and good luck! [For those of you that have been at RCTC since consolidation, you might be interested to know that Cape Cod Community College, where former Vice President of Academic Affairs Kathy Schatzberg is president, won the Planning, Governance and Finance Bellwether Award last year. For a photo of last year’s award winners and more information on the Bellwether Award check out http://www.coe.ufl.edu/futures/bwwin06.html.]
- Recently the Academic Affairs and Standards Committee approved a procedure that allows apprenticeship graduates to garner 16 elective credits toward an AA degree if they present proof of successful completion of a state or federally approved apprenticeship program, verified by the Dean of Career and Technical Education and substantiated with copies of the certificate and a memo of approval to the Registrar and DARS Coordinator. Don De Keyrel, Construction Partnership Director and long-time supporter of technical education, was a tireless advocate in helping move this initiative forward. Thanks to all who contributed to making a long-awaited request from local apprenticeship advocates a reality.
- Suzanne Dinusson and the Retail Merchandising Program students were recognized at the conclusion of the recent Career Fashion Show for the community service work they did readying the store for the grand opening of the new Salvation Army Thrift Store. A beautiful plaque thanks them for “doing the most good.” Congratulations!
- Administrative leadership of the Rochester Public Schools and RCTC are discussing the potential of pursuing future funding of a secondary vocational center addition on UCR’s Heintz Center. The addition would be modeled after a very successful STEP school that was built several years ago on adjacent to the Anoka Technical College. If both organizations agree to pursue the funding, the next step would likely be to use CARE funds to complete a facility pre-design document. That pre-design would then be used to obtain legislative approval and funding for construction design documents and ultimately construction funding. Don’t hesitate to contact Mike Bequette or Jay Lee if you’d like more information about this exciting collaboration.
- Congratulations to Dr. Kim Rowley, Vet Tech faculty member and program leader, who was notified that following review of the interim report for RCTC’s Animal Health Technology Program, the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee has granted RCTC’s program continued provisional accreditation. The program’s next annual report is due February 20, 2007 and the next accreditation site visit is scheduled for 2010. Way to go!
- “Students who participate in collaborative learning and educational activities outside the classroom and who interact more with faculty members get better grades, are more satisfied with their education, and are more likely to remain in college. But the gains from those practices are even greater for students from underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds, or who come to college less prepared than their peers.” Those were among the major findings of the latest annual National Survey of Student Engagement. Now in its seventh year, the survey covered 260,000 students. The data from this year’s survey also revealed differences in the habits of male and female students. Compared with men, women spent more hours preparing for classes, more hours caring for dependents and were more likely to perform community service or volunteer work, use e-mail to communicate with an instructor and prepare two or more drafts of a paper. Compared with women, men spent more time relaxing and socializing, more time per week participating in extracurricular activities and were more likely to tutor or teach other students, exercise, discuss ideas from assigned readings with faculty members outside of class and work with classmates on assignments outside of class.

Thought for the week…Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand.  

Talk anyway!  

Don