

COLLEGE *Crossings*

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE...EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.

Thought for the week...

Reading without reflecting is like eating without digesting.

~Edmund Burke

Beat the Odds

Beat the Odds is a special evening of celebration recognizing high school seniors who experienced tremendous challenges and then *beat the odds* to achieve personal and academic success and are now preparing for the next stage in their lives... attending college. Honored recipients receive a \$2,500 scholarship for their freshman year at an accredited college. In addition the event also pays tribute to the adults who helped them transition their lives. It is an inspiring evening.

This is the ninth year of Beat the Odds in our community. Proceeds from this event support the student recipients, provide the RCTC Foundation with resources to help students and programs, and pay an annual stipend to Minnesota Children's Defense Fund, founder of Beat the Odds. To date Beat the Odds has provided over \$105,000 in scholarships to its recipients.

Over 300 community leaders attend this recognition event on January 29th at the Kahler Grand Hotel. One of their opportunities to provide additional support is through a silent auction of various baskets. Your support of Beat the Odds and the RCTC Foundation through a basket for this silent auction would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Jean Jech ext. 7770 with your support or questions you may have. Jean can also provide information on individual tickets or table sponsorships for the event. Thank you for any support you can lend.

Service Attributes Established

At the recent Staff Development Day faculty and staff participated in breakout sessions to provide input on proposed service attributes for the college. These attributes support RCTC's AQIP vital few action plan to "Better Serve Stakeholders." The Strategic Operations Committee reviewed all input received and has established six service attributes aligned with the college values of learner-centered, excellence, innovation, teamwork, respect and fun. A copy of the service attributes is attached to this week's *College Crossings*. They can also be found on the Continuous Improvement website at <http://www.rctc.edu/ci/aqip.html>. A copy of the raw input received is also available on the website.



ATTACHMENTS

CLICK BELOW TO BRING UP
ATTACHMENT ON SCREEN

Service Attributes

*Handbook for Crisis Intervention
and Suicide Prevention*

Food Service Hours

Camp Invention

Core Outcome Drafts



Upcoming Events

Regional Sports Center

- Dec. 18-RCTC Nursing Pinning
- Dec. 19 & 20-Christmas Wrestling Tournament
- Dec. 19 & 20-RCTC Basketball 5/7pm
- Dec. 21-RCYBA Big Nine Tournament
- Dec. 29, 30, 31-Rochester Rotary Basketball Tournament
- Jan. 2 & 3-"THE CLASH" Wrestling Tournament
- Jan. 4-Elks Hoop Shoot



AQIP Report Now Available

A copy of the college's nine-page 2008 AQIP Quality Visit Feedback Report is now available and can be found on the Continuous Improvement website at <http://www.rctc.edu/ci/aqip.html>

Biannual Art Sale

Please come and shop our biannual art sale on Monday, December 15th from 9 AM- Noon in SH 201 (the room just off of the ceramics studio). Browse through a great variety of original artworks, lovingly crafted and donated by our talented students and staff. This year will again feature Ceramics, Photography, Paintings, and Block Prints- all at very affordable prices. All proceeds are used to sponsor art club events like: visiting artists, workshops, empty bowls, etc. This event is generously sponsored by Student Life and the Art Department



~ Simon Huelsbeck, Art Club Advisor

HOLIDAY RECEPTION WINNERS

A very special thank you to Robin Fruth-Drugstad and the Horticulture Program Students for their donation of centerpieces and door prizes at this year's UCR Holiday Reception. Robin and her student are always so generous to donate the centerpieces each year, so please be sure to thank them for all their hard work and generosity. In addition, a thank you to Gary Peterson and Taher, Inc. for subsidizing the hot hors d'oeuvres and beverages at this year's reception! The winners of this year's door prizes were: Mo Amundson, K-12; Fritz Breitenbach, UofM Extension; Diane Dingfelder, WSU; Joni Gamm, RCTC; Carol Haug, RCTC; Alex Kromminga, RCTC; Kim Leitzen, RCTC; Dave MacLeod, RCTC; Christine M. Miller, RCTC; Randy Mohawk, RCTC; Julie Rodakowski, RCTC and Deb Sveen, UofM Extension

Student Resource

An updated copy of the Handbook for Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention is attached to this week's *Crossings*. The very last page has a few changes...specifically, the change in address for Zumbro Valley Psychological Services. Our students use this service a lot. It is no longer NW.

~ Audrey Lidke, M.S., Counselor



Horticulture Sale

Stop by HH114 and pick up a holiday gift at the horticulture sale. Choose from poinsettia trees, poinsettia plants, kissing balls and centerpieces. Remaining holiday hours are as follows:

- Holiday Hours
- Dec. 15: 11am-4pm
- Dec. 16: 2-4pm
- Dec. 17: 11am-4pm
- Dec. 8: 8 -11:50am

~ Growing for you, Robin, Doug, & Students

Pet Supply Drive

A reminder that the RAHTS Club pet supply drive to support Paws and Claws is going on now and continues through Friday, December 19. Collection bins are located in the Atrium area on the main campus and in the Commons area of the Heintz Center. Specific items needed are: clay cat litter; old towels and blankets; paper towels; bleach; Iams brand puppy or adult dog food; Purina brand kitten or cat food; monetary donations (sent directly to Paws and Claws). *Thank you to those that have contributed already!!*

~ Dr. Layne Daniels, RAHTS Club advisor





SUPALLA'S SCRIBBLINGS

The long awaited and slightly overdue Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) accreditation team visit report as arrived. A copy of the entire nine-page report will be available next week and can be reviewed on RCTC's continuous quality improvement web page at <http://www.rctc.edu/ci/aqip.html>. Highlights of the report include...

- **RCTC presented satisfactory evidence that it met the overall goal of the Quality Checkup and is an institution deserving of continued accreditation.**
- **Team members observed frequent examples of high commitment to institutional values on the part of all stakeholders. Documentation and performance related information were acceptable and are in compliance with Commission and AQIP expectations.**
- **A significant portion of the report is devoted to the assessment of student learning. Team members indicated that the institution needs to demonstrate significant progress in addressing the assessment of student learning before it comes up for Reaffirmation of Accreditation beginning September 2009. The Quality Checkup team believes this issue is perilously close to being an accreditation issue. The team suggests that RCTC send AQIP a voluntary report before September 2009. The institution should document the development of student learning outcomes at both the program and course level.**
- **The team noted distinct areas of improvement in student completion rates, alignment of hiring criteria with RCTC mission/vision/goals, and accountability and data informed decision-making. The visitation team referenced such innovative initiatives as the UCR Leading Center, Collaborations Among Rochester Educators (CARE) Program, Occupational Skills program and the college dashboard as examples of good work. Although communication issues were identified, the RCTC leadership team is clearly aware of the issues and has demonstrated a commitment to improving various communications processes.**
- **Team members noted some areas of continuing opportunity for improvement in addition to the assessment of student learning. These included senior leadership stability with the issue of turnover, long hiring times and lengthy interim appointments. Although student satisfaction survey results continue to decline, the team members were impressed with the positive nature of their meetings with students and were unable, despite repeated probes, to identify specific issues of student dissatisfaction. The team noted some concern over the extremely broad nature of the AQIP Action Projects and the long timeframes established for completion of the projects.**
- **The institution presented satisfactory evidence that it had met all compliance criteria established by The Higher Learning Commission.**
- **In closing, the team offered the following notes:**
 - **Excellent feedback throughout the session; open and honest discussion**
 - **Well organized visit**
 - **Students offered positive feedback**
 - **The institution enjoys an excellent reputation in the community**
 - **The team noted challenges of working in an environment with multiple unions and MSCF bifurcation**
 - **Bottom-up communication mechanisms and additional communication of rationale for decisions**
 - **Authority and responsibility issues regarding overriding decisions and/or lack of policy enforcement**

Chancellor McCormick has sent congratulations on receipt of a recent Minnesota Job Skills Partnership grant. RCTC was one of nine MnSCU institutions to receive grants in the latest round of funding. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities garnered \$2,888,116 or 91 percent of the total awarded in this round of funding. RCTC's Business and Workforce Education Department (Customized Training) received \$45,413 for the development of an Advanced Project Management initiative. Congratulations!

Economic news is dismal these days, and college graduates' job prospects are no exception, according to a report released in late November by the Collegiate Employment Research Institute at Michigan State University. Hiring for graduates at all degree levels will decrease by 8 percent over last year, says the annual report, which is based on employers' projections. "In two short years," the report says, "we have moved from a zenith of exuberant and aggressive college hiring, through a period of cautious optimism, to a place of quiet desperation." The report describes three types of employers it says are keeping the college labor market from collapsing entirely. Among them are global companies that compete internationally, large companies that anticipate the retirement of baby boomers that need to sustain their staffs, and some small companies poised for fast growth. By field, the best hiring outlooks (or the least grim) were in science and technology. Specifically, the oil and gas industry planned increased hiring of bachelor's degree graduates and health-care and medical-manufacturing companies said they would increase hiring of associate-degree graduates.

Voter turnout among Americans under the age of 30 rose to between 52 percent and 53 percent in this fall's election, up from 48 percent in the previous presidential election, according to estimates released by the Center for Information Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University. About 23 million Americans under the age of 30 voted this year, about 3.4 million more than in 2004, according to the center. Young Americans who had attended college were more likely to vote than those who had not, according to the center's data.

Thought for the Season... *The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others' burdens, easing other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of the Holidays.* – W. C. Jones

I'll be ice fishing on Lake of the Woods from December 15-19. Please don't hesitate to contact any member of the leadership team if you need assistance. Judy Kingsbury (7216) can also provide assistance or point you in the right direction. Best wishes for the happiest of holidays! Enjoy this special time of the year with family and friends. See you in 2009.

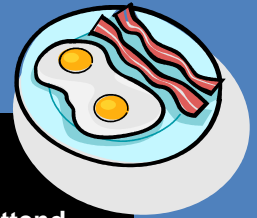
~ Don

STARTING THIS SPRING!

Chat with the President

A series of informal opportunities for faculty and staff to chat with President Supalla on campus issues and ideas important to you! The two forums are scheduled for . . .

January 22, 2009 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
UCR ~ 3rd Floor Atrium Lounge
February 25, 2009 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Heintz Center ~ HA 104
Stop in for treats and refreshments!



Retirees Breakfast

All RCTC/RCC/RTC retirees and their spouses/significant others are invited to attend the semi-annual RETIREES' BREAKFAST on Tuesday, January 13. It will start at 9:00am at the Real Life Cooperative, 825 Essex Parkway NW. Cost is \$1.00 per person. Please contact Arlouene Bothun at 282-1594 or abothun@hotmail.com to let us know whether or not you will be able to attend.

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



"Look at 'em ... They're HUGE."

Guatemala Trip

The Guatemala Trip is open for registration! If you are interested in coming to Guatemala, please let me know – and if you could pass this note along to your contacts, students, friends, etc. I would appreciate it. Also – as noted below – we once again have Guatemalan Organic Coffee and Crafts for sale – socially conscious gifts make great presents for the holiday season! Your gift will help others in Guatemala. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

~ Lillyam Arroyave

Employee News

Condolences to Maureen Bhaskaran (adjunct math instructor) whose father, Francis Holicky passed away on Monday, December 1. Mr. Holicky was 92 years of age.

Condolences to Kelly Schurhammer (Cashier) and Jenee McGurren (Graphic Arts Specialist) whose mother/mother-in-law, Bernita "Bee" McGurren, passed away on Saturday, December 6 at the age of 73.

Our thoughts are with these employees and their families.

On behalf of the President and the CIO search committee, I am very pleased to inform you that Scott Sahs has been offered and has accepted the position of CIO at the College. He has been the interim since Art Lible departed, and he interviewed against four other excellent candidates during the month of November. The search committee thinks Scott is the right person at this time for this important position. Please be sure to extend your congratulations to Scott.

~ Mike Bequette

I am pleased to announce that Christine Miller has joined the RCTC community as the new Director of Institutional Research for the college. Christine has a background in corporate training including strategic planning and Balanced Scorecard development and implementation. She was part of the project team that led to Canon USA being inducted into the 2004 Balanced Scorecard Hall of Fame. She has a BA in International Relations Political Economy from the U of MN and an M. Ed. in Corporate Training Knowledge Management from Jones International University. Her Master's research led to a business process patent application related to Intellectual Asset Management. Please welcome Christine.

~ Dave Weber

Crossings Classifieds

FOR SALE: White metal bunk beds, twin over double. Mattresses included. \$75.00. 507-932-4290 Todd or Shelly Peterson.

Don't know where to start when it comes to assessment? Need help measuring student learning in your class or program? No time for uninterrupted discussions about student learning? Mark your calendars and plan ahead! Two separate Power of 1 events will be held in February on the 13th and 27th. Contact Teresa Brown for more information. teresa.brown@roch.edu / 285-7572



Enjoy the semester break!

Annual RCTC Clothing Sale

Looking for a Christmas gift for yourself or others? Announcing the Annual RCTC Clothing Sales sponsored by your RCTC Softball Team:

WHAT: Sweatshirts (1/4 zip hoods and hockey lace hoods) \$40.00 (S-XL) \$42.00 (XXL); Long Sleeve T-shirts \$15.00 (S-XL) and \$17.00 (XXL)
WHERE: RCTC Atrium Main Campus
WHEN: 10:00-2:00 p.m. Monday-Friday through Dec. 19.

Checks Payable to: RCTC OR Cash...no debit or credit cards.

We look forward to seeing you at the tables and thank you for your continued support of RCTC Athletics and our softball team.

Thank YOU! (on behalf of the RCTC Coaching Staff!!!)

*~Paula Carlsen
RCTC Enrollment Services Applicant Liaison*

2009-2010 RCTC Foundation Scholarship Applications Process Now Available On-line!

A fully on-line application process is now available for Fall 2009 – Spring 2010 RCTC Foundation Scholarships. Details of Scholarships and the online application are now available on the RCTC web site at:
<http://www.rctc.edu/foundation/html/scholarships.html>

Hard copy of scholarship descriptions is also available at the RCTC Foundation Office (HC 109), RCTC Counseling and Career Center (SS 133). Last year the RCTC Foundation awarded nearly 200 scholarships to qualifying RCTC future, returning, and graduating RCTC students. Scholarships have a variety of criteria to accommodate the needs of a multitude of students. Visit the RCTC website today for more information. Application deadline is Monday, March 2, 2009. Please share this information with students and encourage them to contact the Foundation Office at 507-281-7771, jean.jech@roch.edu or visit the Foundation Office with any questions they may have.

*~ Jean Jech
Executive Director, RCTC Foundation*



Toys for Tots

It is that time of year when we think about giving to those in our community who are less fortunate than we are. With that thought in mind the Law Enforcement Club has once again decided to help the Marine Corps Reserves in their Toys for Tots Christmas Drive. If you would like to donate a new unused toy you can drop it off in room HB110 in the Heintz Center or send it to me via campus mail. We will be accepting donations through December 19th. Remember the item does not have to be expensive, a new hot wheel or match box car only costs \$1.

~ Brian Watters

Core Outcomes DRAFTS

The Assessment of Student Learning Committee has reviewed the comments and suggestions concerning the Core Outcomes that were shared on Staff Development Day. As promised, we used your feedback to guide the revision of the Core Outcomes. (Perhaps the most significant change has been the addition of a sixth outcome, Aesthetic Response.) The new drafts of the outcomes are attached to this week's *Crossings*. I ask that you review the new statements and then provide **anonymous feedback** by visiting a blog that I have created. Please enter <https://www.blogger.com> into your browser and sign-in using any of the generic options below.

Username: rctcstaff1@gmail.com
Password: yellowjackets
Username: rctcstaff2@gmail.com
Password: yellowjackets
Username: rctcstaff3@gmail.com
Password: yellowjackets
Username: rctcstaff4@gmail.com
Password: yellowjackets
Username: rctcstaff5@gmail.com
Password: yellowjackets

Upon entering the site, you will see six blogs listed; one for each core outcome. Please click **view blog** for the outcome that you would like to comment on. The main statement along with each bullet has been posted. You can comment on as many or as few as you would like. Please add your comments to the appropriate line by clicking the **comment** link underneath the line. I ask that you frame your remarks in a positive manner so that we may all work together to shape these important statements. **The statements will be posted for comment until December 14th.** I look forward to hearing what you think. Thank you in advance for participating!

~ Teresa Brown

Semester Break Hours

The Goddard Library and the Library Technology Center will be closed: 12/25; 12/26; 1/1/09; 1/02/09 and all Saturdays and Sundays during the winter break (12/20-1/11) For the detailed winter break calendar and the Technology Support Center (TSC) hours, please **CLICK HERE**.

~ Wail Kailani