Open Forums
The RCTC Leadership Cabinet will be holding a "Rumor Control Through Communications (RCTC) Open Forum on Wednesday, January 26, 2005. These forums are an opportunity for employees to discuss concerns and share ideas and information with the Cabinet in an informal setting. Specifically, Predesign Documents, Strategic Planning Updates, and Budget Updates are current issues that will be addressed. The forums are scheduled for 12:30 p.m. in CF202 and 3:00 p.m. in HB117.

Please join the Cabinet members for this important communication forum.

Dean’s List - Fall 2004
Excellence in scholastic achievement is recognized each semester by compiling a Dean's List. Students successfully completing at least 12 credits, with a minimum term grade point average of 3.00 or better, qualify for the Dean's List. These lists are posted in the Admissions and Records area and also at Heintz Center. The listing can also be downloaded by going to: http://www.rctc.edu/about/html/Deans-list.html and clicking on the "Dean's List". Letters of congratulations are sent to students receiving a GPA of 3.5 and above. Congratulations to all who made the list! There are 1,281 students who made the Dean's List for Fall, 2004.

* 4.0: 250 students
* 3.5 - 4.99: 431 students
* 3.0-3.49: 600 students

Art Gallery Exhibition
You are invited to an Art Opening and artist slide/lecture by Brian Frink, Wednesday, January 26, in the Art Gallery/Hill Theater. The opening is 6:30-8:30 PM in the Art Gallery. At 7:00 PM, in the Hill Theater, the artist will show slides and talk about his paintings, in retrospect and well as current work. Students are invited to attend this event so if you have a class please join us. It can be a rich humanities experience for students. The work has been installed and will remain up until March 11. Brian Frink has exhibited throughout the country and is also a painting instructor at Mankato State. Contact me if you want more information or have questions.

RCTC Professional Development Opportunity
Mark your calendars for the next all college Staff Development day! Wednesday, April 13 from 8 AM - 3 PM in the Hill Theater.
Marketing Fact
Of RCTC's Fall 2002/Spring 2003 graduates, 32.4% report that they are continuing their education (MnSCU Graduate Follow-up Survey). In a national comparison: Of those who began community college in 1989-90, 23% transferred to a four-year institution (The Condition of Education, 1998).

UCR Visiting Scholar Lecture

Michael Hurley, native of Edina, Minnesota, spent 21 years working as CIA Directorate of Operations. Hurley specializes on conflict areas and served in U.S. interventions in Haiti, Bosnia and Kosovo. He was assigned on two separate occasions to the National Security Council to direct activities surrounding the Dayton Peace Accords and as Director for the Balkans. During the Clinton administration, Hurley was an advisor to National Security Advisor Sandy Berger and President Clinton.

In late 2001 he went to Afghanistan and led CIA personnel and U.S. Special Forces against al Qaeda and the Taliban. He was lead coordinator on the scene for “Operation Anaconda,” the largest military campaign against al Qaeda in Afghanistan.

Michael Hurley has developed a reputation as a national expert on counterterrorism. His career spans command of U.S. forces deployed in the most hostile regions of the world in the battle against al Qaeda, to the highest policy making circles of the U.S. Government.

Mr. Hurley will be speaking on February 1, 2005 in the UCR Hill Theater at 11:00 a.m. This lecture is free and open to the public. Funding for UCR Visiting Scholar events is provided by University Center Rochester and Rochester Community and Technical College Foundation.

Birth Announcements
Congratulations to Rod Milbrandt (Physics Instructor) on the birth of a daughter, Katrina Marie on Tuesday, January 18. Katrina weighed in at 7 lbs 11 oz. Both mother (Charyssa Cobb) and daughter are doing great!

Congratulations also to Tim Gilsrud (Director of Information Technology) who has added a fifth grandchild to his family. Tim's daughter and son-in-law (Jennifer and Eric Ristad) are the proud parents of an 8 lbs. 4 oz (19 3/4 inch) baby boy named Brandon. Brandon arrived on Monday, January 10th!

UCR Blood Drive
Monday, January 24
8:30 -3:00
AT301

Call the Mayo Clinic Blood Bank to schedule an appointment. 284-4475. Walk-ins are welcome!
Supalla’s Scribblings

Several days have passed and the buzz around town and around the state continues to focus on the Governor’s State of the State Address. Although his comments lacked the detail and substance so many are still looking for, his decision to deliver the address in Rochester and his proposals certainly put Rochester in the spotlight. Some constituents in St. Paul even have suggested that the speech be more appropriately titled, “The State of Rochester Address.” It will likely be some time before the true meaning of what Governor Pawlenty is proposing is known…and then additional time for all impacted parties to weigh in on the proposal. In the meantime, I encourage you to stay informed and continue to dialogue with policymakers. A great source of information is the MnSCU legislative weekly update available every Friday afternoon at…

http://www.mnscu.edu/about/legislative/legislativeupdates/2005/index.html

Inclement weather brings with it a rash of calls criticizing whatever decision is made…darned if you do, damned if you don’t. Such was the case recently when almost all area K-12 districts (and one regional higher education institution) canceled classes for the day. The UCR CEOs believe that our decision to stay open ultimately proved to be a good decision. However, several students, spouses and parents called to voice their concerns and two Moms have encouraged our faculty to be more sensitive to absences caused by inclement weather. In addition to safety issues, parents often times have childcare problems when districts make last-minute decisions to close for the day. I encourage you to have a conversation with your students about the importance of being proactive…carrying an emergency kit, allowing for additional travel time, having day care back-up, etc. It would also be helpful if students were reminded that RCTC/UCR is not affiliated with the Rochester Public Schools and will make a separate announcement should classes be canceled or the University Center be closed. Any reminders or accommodations you can make will be most appreciated. Thanks!

Last week the Office of the Chancellor released information on the number of fall term credits that were generated in online courses. MnSCU institutions delivered 57,860 undergraduate credits fall semester. RCTC ranked fifth, out of 36 campus sites, in the number of online credits delivered (3,439). The only MnSCU institutions delivering more online credits than RCTC were: Lake Superior College (8,388), Metro State University (3,950), Minnesota West (3,913) and St. Cloud State University (3,439). Congratulations to those faculty members who are pioneering this new delivery option.

Student Success Day…“It’s a Jungle Out There”…is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15 from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The Planning Committee has organized an exciting agenda. I urge each of you to encourage student attendance in your classes, promote it with signs and handouts, and participate yourself. Students will have an opportunity to attend a general session on college survival, hear a motivational speaker, participate in program-specific sessions and visit with faculty. Please don’t hesitate to contact Mike Bequette if you have questions or suggestions regarding Student Success Day.

Did you know?

- Beth Diekmann was elected Secretary for the Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators. In May, Beth will replace Rosemary Hicks who is the current MAFAA secretary. Thanks, Rosemary…Congratulations, Beth!
- A recent CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION report indicates that Minnesota currently ranks 47 out of 50, in state support for higher education reflected by state tax funds appropriated for operating expenses, student aid and state higher education agencies. A January, 2004 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY report showing state tax fund appropriations for higher education from FY1961 to FY2004, indicates that Minnesota appropriated $7.56 per $1000 of personal income to higher education. The appropriation peaked at $15.05 in the late 1970s and has steadily declined since then. The current $7.56 appropriation is compares with the $7.25 in funding that occurred in 1965. U.S. Census Bureau data from 2000 indicates that Minnesota spends $531 ($477 U.S. average) per capita on public higher education, ranking 23 out of 50 states. Currently, Minnesota higher education total spending amounts to 1.8 percent of personal income (1.7 percent U.S. average), ranking 32 out of 50 states.
President Bush has proposed to increase the maximum Pell grant by $500 over the next five years. The Pell Grant program has been the gateway for millions of low-income students to achieve their college dreams. Under the president’s proposal, the Pell program—which has long operated as an entitlement program—will now be funded as an entitlement, which means enough money will be slated for the program to cover all participants and allow for planned increases. This represents a tremendous step forward, and – if approved by Congress – will dispel the financial uncertainty that has surrounded the program from year to year.

In December 2004, the U.S. Department of Education announced that it will update the amount it allows families to deduct for state and other tax payments when applying for financial aid. These changes affect the way both the Federal Pell and the Minnesota State Grant programs calculate a family’s ability to pay for college. Due to this update, Minnesota residents attending Minnesota institutions are expected to see an estimated $12.37 million less in federal and state grants, or about 4.5 percent less in fiscal year 2006 than they would have without the update. An estimated 55,774 students will receive smaller awards. Hardest hit by the change generally are students and families with a greater ability to pay for college.

Stan Cram has been nominated for a seat on the First Alliance Board of Directors. Good luck, Stan!

**Thought for the Week…**

"You have to find something that you love enough to be able to take risks, jump over the hurdles and break through the brick walls that are always going to be placed in front of you. If you don’t have that kind of feeling for what it is you’re doing, you’ll stop at the first giant hurdle."

-- George Lucas

Do you love what you’re doing enough to take risks, jump over hurdles and break through brick walls?

*Don*

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**Student Learning Assessment**

Meeting – January 25, 2005 – See attachment for agenda!