Beat the Odds is an annual fundraising event and scholarship program that honors youth who have overcome significant odds to become personally and academically successful. On January 26, 2012 nearly 500 people came together to celebrate four inspiring students who have Beat the Odds.

**Shelby Snipes:** Shelby’s father abandoned her and her mother when Shelby was 11. Since then, Shelby has struggled with depression, chemical dependency, and her mother’s health issues. She credits her faith for helping her face these challenges and turn her life around. Shelby will graduate from Stewartville.

**Carmelle Yeager:** Carmelle dreamed of being a ballet dancer but at age 15, a leg injury led to a cancer diagnosis. Fortunately, the cancer has not returned after treatment. But, Carmelle still faces challenges with her motor ability in the leg in which the cancer appeared. She recently underwent a hip surgery to help correct some of these problems. Carmelle will graduate from Century High School.

**Abi Tobiason:** Abi lost both her parents in a tragic car accident when she was just 8 years old. The oldest of 3 girls, Abi and her sisters were all in the car when the accident happened and Abi pulled her younger sisters out of the car to safety. Since then, Abi and her sisters have lived with their aunt and Abi has been involved in dance and music. She will graduate from Kasson-Mantorville.

**Hanna Hughes:** Hanna was diagnosed with bone cancer and when chemotherapy was unsuccessful in shrinking the tumor, she had her right leg amputated. Yet, Hanna never lost hope. She has maintained an exceptional grade point average and is manager of the soccer team at school. Hanna will graduate from Lourdes this spring.

Due to the success of the Beat the Odds Event an endowed account has been established to fund future scholarships. With your help we can continue to transform lives and the world. To make a donation call: 507-281-7770 or email: lisa.baldus@roch.edu
The John and Sandra MacLaughlin Scholarship was established to help fund RCTC students who are pursuing a Practical Nursing Diploma. Preference will be given to Head Start parents and current employees of Madonna Towers.

Julie Rodakowski Writing Tutor Training Scholarship Fund was established by the peers of Julie Rodakowski for her years of instructional dedication to RCTC students.

Reif Female Academic Scholarship was established by Marjorie Reif who is a current RCTC math instructor. The scholarship is awarded to female students who maintain high GPAs, are involved in volunteer activities, and had previously participated in athletics.

Want to establish your own scholarship? Or do you belong to a group that is interested in starting an Annual Scholarship? Call: 507-281-7770.

Douglass Family Scholarship
This scholarship was established by Helen Douglass. Helen grew up in Douglas, MN, which is located five minutes from Rochester. Helen was known for going without, even though she was wealthy. She left part of her estate to RCTC to provide scholarships for graduating students pursuing degrees beyond an Associates. Over $100,000 was awarded to RCTC students for school years 2011—2013.

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**RCTC Sports News**

**Yellowjackets in the News**

**Brian LaPlante** was named Coach of the Year. Coach LaPlante guided the Yellowjackets men’s basketball team to a number one ranking and a 30-3 record last season, finishing second in the nation.

The Yellowjacket Men’s Basketball Team was named Team of the Year. The talented squad is 55-9 the past two seasons appearing in the national championship games in 2010 and 2011. The team was ranked 9th in team offense and 10th defensively last year.

**Caleb Leichtnam** had a record setting Football season as a Yellowjacket on and off the field. Caleb earned All-State, All-Region, All-America honors and was the NJCAA Division Player of the year for setting a new record of 20 interceptions. Caleb was also named the Rochester Area Sports Male Athlete of the year in January.

**What’s New?**

**400 Firefighters visit RCTC in April**

More than 400 firefighters expanded and enhanced their skills on 3/30 and 4/1 during the Minnesota State Fire/EMS/Rescue School, sponsored by Riverland Community College in Austin and Rochester Community and Technical College.

**Online Learning**

Nearly 25 percent of classes taught at RCTC are now completely online, and when hybrid courses are tossed into the mix, the number rises to one-third. The result: There is now a growing number of RCTC students who never set foot on campus. "In three years, we've developed a complete e-campus. In addition, students can meet with the online advisor through technology” said Ginny Boyum, RCTC’s interim Dean of Academic Affairs who oversees online programs.

**Fun with Physics**

More than 100 kids, parents and students came out to enjoy hands-on exhibits at the fifth annual Physics Demo Show held in the Hill Theatre on February 25th. The annual shows raise money to pay for the Engineering Club’s academic related trips. This year, the club is heading to Washington, D.C., to tour science labs.

**Q: How do I donate to the Foundation?**

**A: Donate online by visiting:** [http://www.razoo.com/story/Rochester-Community-College-Foundation](http://www.razoo.com/story/Rochester-Community-College-Foundation)

**Or send your donations to the RCTC Foundation:**

851 30th Ave SE, Rochester, MN 55904
As part of the Homecoming Festivities the RCTC Foundation sponsored a Social Hour for the Alumni to network and connect with past and present faculty. Over 100 participants attended and plans are in place to make this an annual Homecoming event.

The RCTC Foundation facebook page is helping alumni to reconnect with each other and RCTC. Some familiar faces have stepped back on campus for the first in many years to see the new science and medical labs and the Rochester Regional Stadium/Bubble.

Lisa Baldus, the RCTC Foundation Director who is an alumnus herself would like to extend an invitation to the RCTC alumni who are traveling to area this summer to stop in and take a tour of the campus and update your information.