Beat the Odds is a scholarship and fundraising program that celebrates high school seniors who have faced considerable challenges in their young lives. Despite significant obstacles, such as personal or family hardships, disabilities, poverty, neglect, chemical dependency or language and cultural barriers, these individuals have persevered and begun a path of personal achievements. As their path leads them toward higher education, they are provided with a $2,500 scholarship to the accredited college of their choice.

The purpose of the program is to raise awareness to the struggles of many youth in our community and recognize their ability to overcome difficulties. Besides recognizing these inspiring young students, Beat the Odds also pays tribute to the adults who detected the struggles and reached out with encouragement, advice, resources and support.

Beat the Odds was founded by the Children’s Defense Fund and was brought to the RCTC Foundation by Senator Sheila Kiscaden in 2000. Since its inception, our Beat the Odds has provided over $150,000 in scholarships to nearly 100 students. Proceeds from the event not only provide these remarkable students with scholarships, they also benefit the Children’s Defense Fund of Minnesota and supply the RCTC Foundation with resources to administer scholarships and support RCTC programs.

13th Annual Beat the Odds
Thursday, January 13
Rochester International Event Center

The evening will begin with a social hour and silent auction at 5:00 p.m. with dinner and the award ceremony to follow.

Contact the RCTC Foundation at 507-281-7771 to reserve seats or find out how you can support Beat the Odds.
Scholarship News

SEMOMS
The Southeastern Minnesota Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates have established a scholarship for students attending RCTC full-time and pursuing a healthcare related program. The student must maintain a 3.0 grade point average or higher to be eligible.

The scholarship application for the 2013/2014 academic year will open on December 15, 2012 until February 24. Scholarship recipients will be announced in early April and recognized at the annual Scholarship Night award ceremony on April 30, 2013.

Bill Walker Memorial
The Cronin Home and the family of the late Bill Walker have established a scholarship to benefit students in the Alcohol and Drug Counseling program. This scholarship will be applied toward textbook costs. Eligible students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and part-time status.

Co-located Workforce Center Groundbreaking
A brief groundbreaking ceremony was held at the Heintz Center on September 21, 2012 to recognize the establishment of a Co-located Workforce Center. This new facility, which will be built on the east side of the Heintz Center, will allow the cooperative use of space for both RCTC and the Rochester Workforce Center and will provide unique and individualized services for job seekers, employers, and students transitioning from college to the workforce. The project is a collaborative effort between Rochester Community and Technical College, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), the Minnesota Workforce Center, and the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Construction on the 22,800 square foot addition to the Heintz Center is expected to begin next year and will be completed in 2014.

Facebook
Like us on facebook... we want to hear from you. Also, check out our upcoming events and let us know if you can join in the fun!

Facebook.com/RCTCFoundation

ATTENTION ALUMNI!
New alumni groups have been established on Facebook! Join your class today to stay connected with RCTC classmates and friends!

http://www.rctc.edu/foundation/
Outstanding Alumni

The RCTC Foundation kicked off Homecoming with an Outstanding Alumni event on September 21 at Ron’s Place in Rochester. As part of the festivities, a vote was conducted to select the “2012 Outstanding Alum” from a pool of three remarkable graduates. Our grand winner, and the 2012 Outstanding Alumni title went to Alyce Tidball, a 1969 graduate.

Alyce Tidball graduated high school in Plainview, MN and then went on to attend Rochester Junior College. Alyce continued her education at the University of Minnesota, earning a Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology. She then taught for a year in the US Virgin Islands and for another year in Aberdeen, Scotland before joining the Peace Corps. She worked for two years as a Home Extension Agent in Paraguay, teaching rural women and girls’ basic homemaking skills. Alyce attended graduate school at Southern Methodist University, where she earned an MBA, and at Thunderbird School of Global Management, where she earned a Master’s degree in International Management. After three years of working in the private sector in Mexico City, Alyce joined the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer.

Now the Director for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs at the US Consulate General in Jerusalem, Alyce and her team have contributed significantly to the establishment and implementation of security sector reform and the development and operation of the criminal justice sector in the West Bank. In 2011, she was awarded the Department of State’s prestigious Warren Christopher Award for Outstanding Achievement in Global Affairs. Alyce has served at U.S. Embassies in Kabul, London, Paris, Brussels, Canberra, Mexico City, San Salvador, and Bogota.

Homecoming Highlights

On September 22, 2012, the RCTC Yellowjackets squared off against the Mesabi Range Norsemen at the UCR Regional Stadium. In the 4th Quarter, the Yellowjackets were behind 7-0 but in a miraculous turn of events within the last few minutes of the game, RCTC scored a touchdown and two-point conversion to reign victorious. The final score was 8-7. Congratulations RCTC!

Following the game, the RCTC Foundation hosted a post-game social at the Wicked Moose Bar and Grill. Former players, coaching staff, and football supporters showed up to celebrate RCTC’s Homecoming win.
We are saddened to announce the passing away of Steve Kereakos, beloved RCTC Football Coach from 1968-1994 (head coach, 1985-1994). Steve served the College for 34 years in multiple capacities: football coach, Health & Physical Education Teacher, and Director of Student Life. He was committed to his students and his team, and remained close with the College and Foundation following his retirement.

Steve championed two different scholarships with the RCTC Foundation. The Champa/Kereakos Scholarship, established in 1995 in honor of Steve and retired football Coach Cy Champa (head coach, 1968-1984), benefits incoming students who participated in high school athletics and plan to continue extracurricular involvement at RCTC. Cy and Steve raised funds for this scholarship with their annual Champa/Kereakos Golf Outing. In 1998, the Kereakos Family scholarship was created to support incoming students who are immigrants or first-generation American citizens.

Steve left a lasting impact on his students, co-workers, and the RCTC community with his steadfast dedication and passion for teaching and coaching. He will be greatly missed.