College For Kids

Please consider teaching in the highly acclaimed Rochester College For Kids for one or both of the following weeks: July 29-August 2 and/or August 5-9, 2002 held at Rochester Community & Technical College. The co-sponsors for Rochester College For Kids are Rochester Community and Technical College and the Zumbro Education District. In 2001, nearly 600 gifted and talented third, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders from primarily southeastern Minnesota enjoyed classes taught by college faculty and community teachers during Rochester College For Kids. Your participation as an instructor in this program would be greatly appreciated. For more information about the College for Kids program and an proposal form, please see the attachments to this week’s Crossings.

Transfer specialists on campus

On Wednesday, January 23rd the College of Natural Resources from UM will be in the Atrium from 10:30am to 1:30pm.

On Thursday, January 24th, UND will be here from 1:00-3:00pm in the Atrium.

If you have questions you need answers to and cannot attend, please send your question with one of the counselors.  

- Audrey Lidke, Counselor

Reminder - Fifth Tuesday Event

The RCTC Student Learning Assessment Committee would like to invite you to a "Fifth Tuesday Event” on January 29th at 2:00pm in CF 202.

This HIGHLY INTERACTIVE presentation will be conducted in the "Stinger Cafe" setting. Due to implementation of budget reduction strategies, please bring junk food to share. The "junkiest" food will be determined by silent voting.
Supalla’s Scribblings

Thanks to 11 staff members and students who joined me Monday morning for the Seventh Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast. A broad based segment of staff and three students got up very early on a holiday to enjoy a great breakfast, beautiful music, and a series of tributes to Dr. King. The highlight of the “It’s Time…” program was a keynote address by The Honorable Judge Kevin Lund. During his remarks, Judge Lund spoke at length about RCC’s own Joe Rockenbach. Kevin recalled how Joe recruited basketball players out of inner city Washington D.C. to play for the Yellowjackets. Oh, Joe was much more than a teacher and coach…he was a mentor, father-figure, role model and friend. What a wonderful tribute to one of RCC’s and Rochester’s freedom fighters!

Congratulations to M. J. Wagenson and Bob Ekstam who were featured in an article in the Winter 2002 Minnesota State High School League Bulletin. The Bulletin, distributed to all K-12 districts in the State, featured a story and photos of a class M. J. conducts each year at RCTC to recruit new officials for high school basketball. Each year, M. J. invites the Rochester Area Officials Association (that’s where Bob comes in) to assist by “shadowing” her students and providing them with helpful instructions and advice. Way to go, M. J. and Bob!

At a recent conference of the Association of Community College Trustees, David Wessel, Pulitzer Prize Winning columnist for the Wall Street Journal, who as written extensively about community colleges, told the trustees: “Too many community colleges suffer from an inferiority complex. Too many community colleges are staffed by faculty who wished they were teaching at the University of California or Harvard or Northwestern. They want to try to make the community college something like the four-year college. What you do is more important in America today and the next 20 years than what goes on at Harvard, and you ought not to be ashamed of it. But some of you and your faculty are, and that’s a big problem. There are too many Americans who think of community colleges as second-rate institutions for third-rate students who aren’t smart enough or rich enough to go to four-year colleges. I think it’s a mistake for community college to wish that away. That’s something you have to aggressively take on. I don’t see that the mission or urgency of your task has changed, it’s just that the environment in which you do it is going to be a lot tougher and you’re going to have fewer resources with which to do it.”

Condolences
Condolences to Erv Berg whose mother (Mabel Berg) passed away on Tuesday, January 22, 2002. She was 87 years old. Our thoughts are with you and your family.

Weekly funny…

"Call me crazy, but I think my paperwork is actually following me."

RCTC Chiropractic Clinic
LOCATION: HC211
Appointments available on Monday and Thursdays from 2-6pm
To set up an appointment, please call 529-2736
At the same conference, Anne Bryant, executive director of the National School Boards Association said…

“Those of you at community colleges have sponsored more innovation through distance learning, through the use of technology, through how you contract about facilities and faculty, more innovation than all the four-year colleges combined. Community colleges understand that critical link between not just the process of building something with the community’s involvement, but in building the relationships with the people. The community college is the perfect partner because people trust you, because you are the community.”

**Feeling old yet?**

Each year the staff at Beloit College in Wisconsin puts together a list to try to give faculty a sense of the mind set of this year’s incoming freshmen. I’ve reviewed their list for the last several years, each time realizing just how old I am. Here’s this year’s list:

- The people who are enrolled in college this year were born in 1983.
- They are too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up.
- Their lifetime has always included AIDS.
- Bottle caps have always been screw off and plastic.
- The CD was introduced the year they were born.
- They have always had an answering machine
- They cannot fathom not having a remote control.
- Jay Leno has always been on the Tonight Show.
- Popcorn has always been cooked in the microwave.
- They can’t imagine what hard contact lenses are.
- They never heard: “Where’s the Beef?”, “I’d walk a mile for a Camel”, or “de plane Boss, de plane.”
- They do not care who shot J. R. and have no idea who J. R. even is.
- McDonalds never came in Styrofoam containers.
- They don’t have a clue how to use a typewriter.

Do you feel old yet? Why not pass this on to other old fogies in your life and make their day too.

**Thought for the week…** *The secret of education is respecting the pupil.*

– Ralph W. Emerson

Have a great week. *Don*
Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) Meet and Confer
Minutes for Tuesday, December 18, 2001 – 2:00 p.m. – Presidents’ Room

Present: Administration Harris, Supalla, Thompson
Faculty Shafer, Helmers, Hill, Israelson, Tacinelli, Wright
Recorder: Judy Kingsbury

ITEM 1 (F) Committee Structure – Shafer reiterated the necessity to provide a “straightforward” structure of the committees on campus, and he distributed a draft of the proposed All-College Committees. The faculty proposed eliminating the classifications of “task force” and “subcommittee,” and to consider all groups as committees. Shafer will strongly encourage faculty participation on all committees. ACTION: Administration will review the latest proposal.

ITEM 2 (F) 2002-2003 Calendar – Wright announced there was no Memorandum of Understanding in place regarding the academic calendar. Everyone agreed it was important to match RCTC’s calendar to WSU for the convenience of the students. Shafer noted if resolution is reached in the next couple of months, a revised calendar could be approved with little impact on students. ACTION: The 2002-2003 Academic Calendar will remain the same until further information is received regarding the status of MSCF contract negotiations.

ITEM 3 (F) Hiring Timelines – Shafer questioned if the search timelines will move forward in lieu of the recent budget rescission discussions. Harris responded faculty still need to be hired whether there is a rescission or not. Supalla concurred that it is the intent of the Administration to move forward on the searches. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 4 (F) Personal Leave Days – Shafer announced the position of the faculty association is that personal leave days are personal and are only a matter of record keeping, therefore there is no basis for an administrator to deny requests. Supalla agreed, except when faculty request using more than two accumulated days in a semester for emergency purposes. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 5 (F) Summer Sick Leave – Supalla announced the Human Resources Office has not yet calculated the numbers and hopes to finalize the issue during winter break. ACTION: The Human Resources Office will review all faculty with summer assignments over the last four years and prepare a report. E-mail will be sent out to all faculty when the report is completed.

ITEM 1 (A) Community College Survey of Student Engagement – As part of the College’s continuous improvement process, Supalla distributed information regarding an upcoming community college survey of student engagement. The survey will be conducted in March. Faculty will be provided information and a sample survey in January. ACTION: For Information Only.

ITEM 2 (A) Program Suspension – Harris distributed a memorandum to Wright and Shafer summarizing immediate actions approved by the Academic Leadership Cabinet with regards to program suspensions. Additional information regarding rationale was also attached to the memorandum. The actual cost savings from these program suspensions is not yet determined. Wright shared his concerns with the suspension of technical programs, not only locally but statewide, and the future of vocational offerings for students. Harris responded that with the change in trade and industry over the past few years, perhaps the curriculum for these programs needs to be adjusted to fit the needs of today’s technology (i.e. one-year diploma program). Helmers questioned if cost analyses had been done throughout the college (i.e. athletics). Supalla responded that the College’s contribution to the Student Life budget is also being reconsidered, however, understanding that if RCTC is a true comprehensive college, financial support for student life
support must be continued. Thompson added the non-personnel budgets for the student life programs are supported from student life fees. Israelson questioned if the accounting for facilities is also included in the student life programs. ACTION: Supalla will visit with Gary Swenson to assure the accounting for facilities is included in the student life analysis.

ITEM 3 (A) Faculty Evaluations – Hill announced the faculty evaluation committee met and hopes to have a first draft in January for review by the Faculty Association. Wright and Shafer shared some faculty concerns with the possible “over testing” of students if the evaluations are done in every class. Hill is a faculty representative serving on the committee and will relay the concerns to the committee. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 4 (A) Finals Week – Harris announced, with the lack of snow, rescheduling finals is not a concern for this semester. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 5 (A) Budget Rescission – Supalla shared a draft document suggesting ideas for potential budget reductions and revenue generation. Harris announced some Perkins funds are being lost each semester when vocational students do not identify a vocational program, and a new process needs to be implement to ensure these students are declaring appropriate majors. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 6 (A) Student Excused Absence Policy (2nd Reading) – Thompson shared the draft Student Excused Absence Policy generated from the last meeting. Shafer announced some faculty feel the policy is not strong enough and would like to share at the next faculty association meeting before recommending approval. ACTION: The Student Excused Absence Policy will be brought back in January for a Third Reading.

ITEM 7 (A) Faculty Opportunity – Harris shared information on a joint program between the UCR Partners, GRAUC, and the Southeastern Minnesota Initiative Fund to benchmark best practices and to create a public/private partnership to develop new learning opportunities for working adults. Applications should be forwarded to Christine Clements, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Winona State University-Rochester Center. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 8 (A) TeachNet – Harris announced the funding for TeachNet was not funded by MnSCU, hence effective January 1, 2002, TeachNet is discontinued. The technical support employees will return to their respective campuses for the next year. The other employees will be receiving layoff notices, with the exception of one employee who has bidding rights back to a former position. Any funds remaining will be placed in TelePro (including WSU-RC funds). ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 9 (A) Two on Tuesday Schedules – Because the first Tuesday in January is a holiday, Harris proposed the fourth and fifth Tuesdays be combined. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 10 (A) GRAUC Report – Supalla announced the GRAUC Board of Directors was preparing a Statement of Direction that outlines its future emphasis for support of higher education in Rochester and Southeastern Minnesota. The nine-point statement would be shared campus wide through an E-mail in the next few days. ACTION: Information Only.

Next Meeting: January 29, 2002 – 2:00pm – Presidents’ Room