Assessment of Student Learning has funds available to support faculty in assessment initiatives which support the 2003-04 ASL goals. Attached to the College Crossings this week is a Call for Proposals for Assessment of Student Learning grants. Please review the states purposes of the grants and consider applying alone or with a colleague. Proposals must be submitted by February 18, 2004.

**Call for Proposals**
Assessment of Student Learning Grants

- **Total Fund:** $5,000
- **Grants:** Grant Maximum is $1,000 per grant
- **Eligibility:** Unlimited full time faculty, probationary faculty, adjunct faculty
- **Purpose:** To support faculty in:
  - Creating and implementing assessment tools and/or models to measure identified department/program core competencies.
  - Documenting program/department assessment results using e-Lumen software.
  - Piloting RCTC critical thinking assessment model within a Minnesota Transfer Curriculum approved course.

The Call for Proposals and full application for the grant is attached to the College Crossings this week. **WEB address for the committee site is** [www.acd.roch.edu/asl](http://www.acd.roch.edu/asl).

**Rep on Campus.**
Sarah Volk from the University North Dakota will be here on Thursday, February 12th from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Atrium area.
Weekly Funny

"Would you mind aiming your snow blower the other way? I'd like to get into my home."

Student Success Day: February 11, 2004
CORRECTION: In last week’s Crossings, the date was published incorrectly in the headline for Student Success Day. The correct date is: Student Success Day: February 11th. More details about the Student Success Day schedule will be available soon.

You’re Invited
IMAA (Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association) and ASO (Asian Student Organization) invites you to join them in an entertaining evening: "A Celebration of Cultures". Profits will be used for RCTC scholarships and IMAA programs.

This fundraising event will include ethnic food from four areas of the world, music, traditional dance, a silent auction and a performance by a Hmong entertainer Tou Ger Xiong. Senator Shelia Kiscaden will be the Master of Ceremonies.

All activities will take place on the RCTC campus on Saturday, February 28, 2004 starting at 6:00 pm.

Tickets: General admission $25.00, RCTC students $10.00.

See attached poster for more information. Questions? Call IMAA 289-5960.

Weekly Stakeholder and Market Fact
Visitors to RCTC's web site come from a variety of ISP's or connections to the internet. The following is the top three connections to the college website:
1. Charter.com - 16%
2. Mayo.edu - 12%
3. Aol.com - 10%

The most requested pages on the RCTC website are:
1. Enrolled Students
2. Web Registration
3. Catalog

CROSSINGS CLASSIFIEDS

Give Away: Free - you haul - 25 inch GE Color TV (1995/96 year model). Needs a new tuner on board - estimated cost per repair shop is $75.00, otherwise in good shape. I live in SW Rochester near Apache Mall. Contact Dera Hanson in Admissions x7268 or 287-9705 or email dera.johnson@roch.edu.

Community Event: Chocolate Fantasy Plus during WinterFest II. Saturday, February 7th from 12:00 to 4:00pm at the Senior Citizen. Taste the best specialty desserts from area restaurants. Admission is $10/adults and $5 for children 6-12. Proceeds go to support the Senior Citizen Advocacy Program serving elderly citizens throughout Olmsted County.

Infant Nursing Areas on Campus
SS147 (conference room near Counseling) is available for use as a lactation room during late afternoon and evening hours, 3:30-10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Instructions for using the room are posted on the door. Student Health Services (RG115) is open for student use during daytime hours.
Supalla’s Scribblings

RCTC’s human capital, our faculty and staff, are our greatest asset. I join the governor in thanking you for your service and dedication to students. Governor Pawlenty issued the following proclamation…

WHEREAS:  It is important to recognize state employees for their outstanding works and the contributions they make to the way of life in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS:  Gratitude should be shown to state workers for the knowledge, skill, professionalism, and commitment they show in performing their jobs daily; and

WHEREAS:  The work of our state employees enhances and enriches the lives of all Minnesotans each and every day; and

WHEREAS:  It is appropriate to designate a State Employee Recognition Week to honor and recognize all state employees.

Now, THEREFORE, I, TIM PAWLENTY, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of January 26-30, 2004, as:  State Employee Recognition Week

More than just the temps will heat up in St. Paul this week as the 2004 Legislative Session convenes. Usually, on even-numbered years, the legislature finishes its capital bonding work more quickly and with less controversy than during the biennial budget years. This might not be the case this year as the House and Senate bonding proposals are likely to be quite far apart, the Governor has weighed in with some special capital projects that might not be on either the House or Senate list, and the state is still grappling with a sluggish economy. Several Rochester capital bonding projects have been or will be introduced, including the UCR Health Sciences Center project that is seeking funds for the renovation of Rockenbach Gym. We’ll keep you posted as this proposal and other legislation impacting RCTC and higher education work their way through Minnesota’s political process. Stay tuned for an interesting next few months.

During President Bush’s State of the Union Address, he spoke of his support for higher education and job training programs. He has proposed more than $500 million in new funding for education and job training programs, especially at community colleges. Specifically, he highlighted the following initiatives…

- Competitive community-based job training grants to community colleges for partnerships with employers in high-demand job sectors to train people for actual workforce needs ($250 million)
- Advanced placement programs for low-income neighborhoods and increases in the Advanced Placement program (nearly $52 million)
- Increased Pell grants for low income students who qualify and have taken a rigorous high school curriculum such as advanced placement programs and the State Scholars Program ($33 million)
- Expand State Scholars program to make grants available nationwide to encourage high school students to take more rigorous high school courses ($12 million)
- Competitive grants to partnerships of school districts and public or private institutions to create opportunities for professions with subject-matter knowledge and experience to teach middle and high school courses in the core academic subjects, particularly in math and science ($40 million)

Did you know…

- Mary Olson is featured in an article on Women and Heart Disease in the current issue of ROCHESTER WOMEN. The Staff Development Task Force is planning to have Mary do a break out session on heart disease as part of the March 5 staff development day. Copies of the magazine are free and available at many sources throughout Rochester. A limited number of copies are available at the UCR receptionist desk.
Judy Gust, HIT Program Leader, has summarized a report that indicates RCTC’s Health Information Technology graduates performed above the national average overall and they performed above average in each and every domain category. Our students’ success is a tribute to the skills and dedication of the faculty who teach in this relatively new program. Congratulations, students and staff!

Erv Berg and Marilyn Hansmann received a MnSCU’s Outstanding Service Award at the Chief Finance and Facilities Officer’s Conference held last week in St. Paul. Both were recognized for their contributions “above and beyond the call of duty” during the Presidential visit in October 2002. Way to go!

Ruth Siefert and the entire Business Office Staff, were also recognized at the MnSCU Chief Finance and Facilities Officers’ Conference with an “Excellence in Financial Management” award for their dedication, hard work and talents. Way to go!

Thought for the week…

"Mistakes are painful when they happen, but years later a collection of mistakes is what is called experience.” -- Denis Waitley

Don’t be afraid to take risks or make mistakes! Don

President's Advisory Council
RCTC has recently formed a President's Advisory Council (PAC) to discuss and provide input to the President of RCTC on various matters of concern to the college. PAC will be used as a forum for leadership personnel to share information and ideas with major constituent units of the college prior to formulating recommendations that will be shared through the organized meet and confer processes. Local bargaining unit presidents and representatives serve on the Council along with the RCTC Leadership Council and Student Senate President.

PAC held their first meeting on January 8, 2004, and minutes for that meeting are attached to this week's Crossings and available for review on the RCTC Intranet Website.

Tax E-filing Information for Students
You may qualify to file your taxes online for FREE! You can file your income taxes online for free if you meet any of the following requirements:

- You were 22 or younger in 2003, or
- You were 62 or older in 2003, or
- You served on active military duty in 2003 (includes Reservists and National Guard), or
- Your adjusted gross income was $33,000 or less, or
- You're eligible for the federal Earned Income Credit.

For more details, or to learn about other online filing options, go to the Minnesota Department of Revenue's website at www.taxes.state.mn.us.
Rochester Community and Technical College
President’s Advisory Council (PAC)
Minutes for Thursday, January 8, 2004 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109

Present: Tim Gilsrud, Marilyn Hansmann, Delores Kiehne, Alex Kromminga, Jon Krusmark, Jay Lee, Deb Rogne, Don Supalla (Chair), Gregg Wright
Recorder: Kingsbury

ITEM 1 Introductions – Supalla thanked everyone for agreeing to participate on the President’s Advisory Council. Supalla announced the concept of the Council was derived from a process currently being used at the University of Wisconsin – Stout. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 2 Handouts (Guidelines/Charges, Representation, and Ground Rules) – Supalla distributed copies of the PAC handout and announced the charge of PAC is to review issues of an all-college nature. Supalla reiterated PAC does not replace current bargaining meet and confers, but rather will supplement the RCTC Open Forum process as another communication tool. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 3 Financial Audit – Hansmann announced copies of the final Financial Audit are available for review in the Library, or may be checked out from the Office of the President or from Hansmann directly. Hansmann highlighted sections of the audit, and announced RCTC staff will be trained in the future to handle certain responsibilities previously handled by MnSCU staff. Hansmann and Supalla shared their appreciation to the Business Office staff, especially Ruth Siefert, for their outstanding work in the audit process. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 4 Health Sciences Center – Supalla announced MnSCU was holding Capital Bonding Hearings at Riverland and Century College in the next couple of weeks. Hansmann shared some drawings of the proposed Health Science Center, which involves the renovation of Rockenbach Gymnasium. Supalla also announced consideration is being given to the relocation of the Workforce Center to the UCR Campus. Kiehne questioned what would happen to the allied health labs on the second floor Heintz Center. Supalla and Hansmann responded District 535 would continue to use the nursing lab, along with RCTC’s Continuing Education staff. In addition, the University of Minnesota Rochester has indicated no interest in relocating to the proposed Health Science Center, hence would continue to maintain their existing space at Heintz Center. One of the nursing labs will be converted into a Community Dental Clinic. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 5 Parking – Supalla shared student concerns expressed at several Student Senate meeting (specifically employees parking in the student lots and lack of parking in the East Lot of the Main Campus during evening hours). After careful consideration, Administration has decided to remove the distinction of staff, student, and visitor lots at the Heintz Center, and open the East Staff Lot at the Main Campus to students for evening classes (beginning at 5:00pm). In addition, the Facilities, Safety, Grounds and Security Committee has been charged with recommending better signage for all lots. If these changes do not result in a better parking environment, the parking situation will be revisited again and could result in considerations of graduated parking fees or the removal of designated parking lots. Supalla noted suggestions have been forwarded to Administration to construct parking ramps; however, announced ramps will never be supported by MnSCU because UCR is not landlocked, parking ramp construction is extremely high priced, and ramps pose a serious security risk. Supalla requested the assistance of the PAC Advisory Council members to communicate the need for employees to not park in student lots. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 6 Assessment of UCR Closing – Supalla requested feedback from the employees to the closing of the UCR Main and Heintz Center facilities during the Winter Break. To-date, Supalla has only received positive comments, but a formal survey will be conducted to better obtain input from the students and employees before investigating another closing in 2004-2005. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 6 Vice President Postings – Supalla announced the two Vice President positions will be posted in the Chronicle of Higher Education in January. ACTION: Information Only.

Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.
Next Meeting: February 12, 2004 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109