Classes held on April 12

Please note that the RCTC Student Pocketbook, RCTC Student Handbook, and RCTC Annual Report Calendar reflect April 12th as a Duty Day. That is incorrect.

**April 12th is a regular student contact day. Classes are held as usual.**

The spring Faculty Duty Days are scheduled for March 28th and 29th.

**Please relay this information to your students.** I am also requesting this information be shared via the Stinger, Crossings, and TV monitors on campus.

If you have questions regarding duty days and student contact days, please refer to the official academic calendar (distributed in December 2000) or go to the RCTC Website at:

[http://www.roch.edu/rctc/admissions/html/academic_calendar.html](http://www.roch.edu/rctc/admissions/html/academic_calendar.html)

**Student Services MnSAT broadcast**

On Tuesday, February 26, the e-Student Services Work Group will be broadcasting a program entitled "E-Student Services." The program will run from 1:30-3:00pm. CF202 has been reserved for this broadcast. You will have an opportunity to ask questions via a 1-800 phone line, fax number and e-mail. The purpose of this broadcast is to provide you with a brief summary of the work of the e-Student Services Work Group and to seek your advice and assistance on current e-Services projects. The Work Group will also be scheduling a series of informational meetings to be held at various regional sites throughout the state in March 2002.

**Poker Walk - Thursday February 28, 2002**

Sponsored by RCTC Wellness

See the attached flier for more information!

**UCR Beach Party**

You’re invited to the UCR Beach Bash, February 28, 2002 from 1:00-3:00pm on the 3rd floor Atrium. See the attached flier for more details!
"Yes, I said you could have a bowl of icecream. But I wouldn't have if I had known that bowl was three feet deep and two feet wide."

**Upcoming Spring Semester CAB events**

**MISSION IMPROVable, Wed., February 27, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, South Room**
Fast paced and exciting! The MI performance itself is themed around the old TV show, Mission Impossible, with the audience members as the co-agents, the games are the missions, wit and high jinks are the weapons, and the six members of Mission IMPROVable are the agents.

**Service learning workshop opportunity**

FACULTY: don't forget that there is money available to pay your costs to attend a service learning workshop through the Learning by Doing grant. Contact Lynn Guenette at 280-2928 for more information.

**Condolences**

Condolences are extended to Ken Hackenmiller whose brother John passed away on Friday, February 18. Our thoughts are with you and your family.

**Scholarships**

Available Now
For RCTC Students
2002/2003 Academic Year
see attached flier for more info

**Taher – Menu for the week**

- **Mon.** No Special – chicken dumpling soup
- **Tues.** Italian calzone with choice of meat or veggie
  - Vegetable soup
- **Wed.** Roast beef, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll, veggie
  - Chicken noodle soup
- **Thur.** Chicken Caesar salad, French bread
  - Beer cheese soup
- **Fri.** Lemon baked cod, rice pilaf, veggie, roll

**Featured Panini:** grilled chicken, mushrooms, sourdough
**Featured Wrap:** turkey/cranberry cream cheese spread
**Stir Fry:** Hunan pork

*Cafeteria hours spring break: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm*
Supalla’s Scribblings

Capital bonding isn’t moving quite as fast in the House as it did in the Senate, so we continue to wait for a bonding bill proposal from the House. The Senate proposed a $1.2 billion bonding package that includes almost a quarter billion dollars in HEAPR and bricks and mortar for MnSCU. Included in the Senate package is a new roof and skylights for the East Building, skylights for the Art Building, and ADA enhancements for the campus. The House and Senate worked quickly to draft a biennial budget balancing bill that recommends almost $375 million in expenditure reductions. Although the final numbers are still uncertain, any reduction from MnSCU’s appropriation means a combination of budget cuts, reserve reductions, and tuition increases for RCTC. Legislative approval of recently negotiated employee contracts remains uncertain.

Preliminary indications from MnSCU indicate that the RCTC CE/WD Department’s request for a $247,000 loan from MnSCU’s new Revolving Loan Fund for Innovation has been approved. The RCTC proposal for funds to develop a Rural Healthcare E-Learning Initiative will be one of only a couple of applications awarded in the first round of loans. Congratulations to Curt Kephart who put together a very comprehensive application and business plan. The purpose of the MnSCU Revolving Loan Fund for Innovation is to provide loans for the development of innovative curricula and program delivery that are responsive and pertinent to the needs of learners in a rapidly changing, technologically-oriented employment environment. Loan funds are to be used for education programs or courses of study offered substantially on-line. The objective of the Revolving Loan Fund is to explore the market potential for on-line curriculum products that generate revenue for repayment of the loan.

Chancellor McCormick recently forwarded copies of thank you letters he sent to the following RCTC employees for their contribution to the 2001 League for Innovation Conference on Information Technology…Carol Haug, Coralie Fiegel, Darlene Voeltz, Jen Boone, Judy Gust, Julie Rodakowski, Karen Williamson, Karin Wilking, Kathy Peak, Suzanne Dinusson, and Jim Deacon. These RCTC staff members joined with 175 other volunteers from among MnSCU’s 34 colleges and universities to support this conference attended by nearly 3,000 participants. The League for Innovation staff acknowledged that this conference set the mark for host colleges of the future. The League for Innovation conference was a stellar example of staff from throughout MnSCU working together to assure success of a shared vision. I join the Chancellor in thanking those RCTC staff and our MnSCU colleagues who provided this most impressive example of collaboration, cooperation, and collegiality. Way to go!

The Minnesota Higher Education Services Office recently released its Post-Secondary Education Choices of the Minnesota High School Class of 1999, which examines the transition from high school to college for Minnesota students. The report indicates that while Minnesota seeks to provide access to post-secondary education for all citizens, significant gaps exist between students and families with limited financial means and those with higher incomes. The report indicated that only about 60 percent of 1999 Minnesota high school seniors enrolled in post-secondary education the fall after graduation. Fifty-two percent of the representative sample enrolled in a Minnesota or reciprocity institution the fall following graduation. The largest number of students from families who earned less than $90,000 enrolled in a MnSCU institution. Students from families who earned $90,000-150,000 attended the University of Minnesota more than any other institution type.

This spring RCTC will be participating in a new national survey focusing on teaching, learning, and retention in community and technical colleges. The project, the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), is funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Lumina Foundation. The CCSSE survey will be administered in classes randomly selected by CCSSE to ensure a representative sample and to preserve the integrity of the survey results. Faculty members whose classes have been selected for survey administration should have received information from Dave Weber. If you want more information about the CCSSE project, check out the project web site at http://www.ccsse.org.

RCTC participated in a recent Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation project which introduced and engaged various interests from 20 southeast and south-central Minnesota in a dialogue that prioritized five concerns…property tax reform and relief, health care reimbursements, higher education funding, K-12 funding, and transportation. Cause for concern regarding higher education focused on the declining support of infrastructure for two-year institutions, tuition increases, and reduced state funding.

Thought for the week…

"One of the marks of superior people is that they are action-oriented.

One of the marks of average people is that they are talk-oriented. – Brian Tracy

Take Action! Have a great week. Don