Baldrige Banterings

Around 1998 the Baldrige Business Criteria were adapted to education and health. Some of the language was changed to reflect the uniqueness of these areas. For example, customer and stakeholder became student and stakeholder or patient and stakeholder. The primary emphasis of the Baldrige Educational Criteria is placed on teaching and learning rather than research and service or fiscal performance. According to the Baldrige Education Criteria for Performance Excellence, page 9 of the 2001 edition, this is done for three main reasons: “(1) teaching and learning are the principal goals of schools. Thus, sharing of teaching and learning strategies and methods would have the greatest impact on education system improvement. (2) Those who encouraged the creation of an award category for education cited improvement in teaching and learning as their primary or only rationale for such an award. (3) Only a small percentage of schools engage in research and numerous excellent forums already exist for sharing those results.” Baldrige also believes that a well-conceived assessment plan is crucial to excellence in education.

Outstanding Student Awards

The Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs is initiating Outstanding RCTC Student Awards to be presented on Recognition Night, May 1, 2001. Students will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Student involvement and participation at RCTC
- Academic performance
- Service to community
- Positive role model

We have many students who devote hours of their time to helping people, serving on college committees, work 20 hours a week, and still are able to maintain an excellent academic record. They are outstanding students and should be recognized for their accomplishments.

The selection committee will be made up of two faculty, two staff, and two students who will read nominations and meet to select the students who are most worthy of recognition. If you are interested in serving on this task force give Bonnie Mercer a call at #3133.

Watch your mailbox for nomination forms which you should complete and return by March 30. Please consider nominating your outstanding students!
Weekly funny…

"Well, I finally did it! I finished my 'gettingorganized.com' site."

“What if” tax planning
The Human Resources office has a new tool in assisting employees with several types of "What if" planning to determine what affect various changes will have on your taxes. We can do "What if" tax planning for pay raises, special upcoming payments (such as achievement awards), deferred compensation changes, dependent care deferrals, federal and/or state allowance changes, additional federal and/or state withholding tax amount changes. We will also be able to look at your W-2 form at the end of a year. You would need to bring us your last check stub and we can then enter the accurate information. If you would like us to do this for you, please try to make an appointment prior to coming in.

Staff development opportunities…

The Bloomington Conference for Assistants – one-day seminar on May 10 – Thunderbird Hotel & Convention Center - $199 per person ($189 for four or more registrations). Registration and information about the seminar can be accessed at http://www.skillpath.com or from the RCTC human resources office.

The Bloomington Conference for Managers and Supervisors – one-day seminar on May 17 – Thunderbird Hotel & Convention Center - $199 per person ($189 for four or more registrations). Registration and information about the seminar can be accessed at http://www.skillpath.com or from the RCTC human resources office.

Basic Supervision – one-day seminar – April 27 – Comfort Inn and Conference Center - Rochester - $169. Registration and information about the workshop can be accessed at http://www.ptseminars.com or from the RCTC human resources office.

Coaching & Team Building Skills for Supervisors, Managers & Team Leaders – two-day seminar – April 26-27 – Comfort Inn and Conference Center – Rochester - $395 per person (when 3 or more enroll, 4th attends free). Registration and information about the workshop can be accessed at http://www.natsem.com or from the RCTC human resources office.

How to Deliver Exceptional Customer Service – one-day seminar – May 8 – Comfort Inn and Conference Center - Rochester - $99. Registration and information about the seminar can be accessed at http://www.etrain.com or from the RCTC human resources office.
Supalla’s Scribblings

While we are already seven weeks into the legislative session and committees have been meeting regularly, until the February budget forecast was released this week, budget targets could not be established and minimal legislation has been passed. Armed with the new state budget numbers, legislators will begin to seriously debate agency appropriation recommendations. Senator Kiscaden indicated, “Nearly everyone has concerns about the Governor’s budget proposal, which we have begun reviewing in detail. While he assured state agency staff of wage and inflationary increases, very little additional funding has been proposed for services that people receive directly in our schools, colleges and universities, nursing homes and group homes. Both the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system feel shortchanged by the governor’s level of commitment.” Students did their part on February 14 when more than 200 RCTC students (more than any other MnSCU campus) joined thousands of their peers and descended on the Capitol to protest Governor Ventura’s proposed higher education budget. Thanks to the faculty and staff who supported this Advocacy Day learning experience, to GRAUC for sponsoring one of the three RCTC buses, and most importantly to the students who made the trip to fight for affordable, accessible higher education. Now, it’s our turn to dialogue with legislators…write your letters, send your e-mails and place your telephone calls today!

Did you know…

- A new 34-cent stamped envelope honoring the nation’s community colleges is now in circulation from the U.S. Postal Service. The new release was presented February 20 at a special “first day of issue” event at Joliet Junior College, the traditional birthplace of community colleges. Twenty-eight million stamped envelopes will be in circulation throughout this year of the 100th Anniversary of Community Colleges.
- The first-ever statewide job vacancy survey conducted by the Minnesota Department of Economic Security and released last week revealed that job openings outnumber unemployed workers two-to-one. Based on survey findings, the healthcare support occupational group faces the most severe workforce demand. Other fields with high demand include personal care and service (child care workers, barbers, flight attendants and ushers), retail sales, and community and social services (social workers, educators and marriage and family therapists). “Despite the recent slowdown in the economy, this survey shows that it’s sill a jobseekers market in Minnesota,” stated Governor Jesse Ventura.
- RCTC was the first southern Minnesota campus to get a science lab assessment conducted by a consultant hired by the MnSCU system office. Eventually, all colleges will be assessed. Following the visit, MnSCU facilities staff member Sally Grans wrote…Just wanted to thank you, again, for the tour that Anne, Teresa, Sue and Gary took us on. Your entire campus (both structures) are most impressive! From a facilities viewpoint, while we know there are never enough funds, you certainly have taken care of your facilities with great pride and creativity. And while it is recognized that there is always room for improvement, your campus just looks darn good!
- In the most comprehensive study of adult college students in 20 years, the College Board has found that, contrary to the common stereotype, the typical adult college student is a highly computer literate, white, 40-year-old female who works full time. The study, Adult Students 2001, represents a major nationwide investigation of the motivation and learning patterns of adult students conducted by the College Board. The data reveal that the most powerful impetus driving adults to return to college is the need to gain new competencies to advance or change careers, and to stay current in their fields. The study also showed that a surprising 90 percent of these adult students have access to a computer to take college courses. Another key finding includes the fact that there is almost always a trigger, a life-changing event, that sets the time for returning to college (divorce, loss of job, upgrading of job, changing technology, moving into a new community). The study also found that about 35 percent of undergraduate adult students already have four years of college, and 30 percent of graduate students already have a master’s degree.

The next installment on “What Boards Should Know about the Future,” by futurist David Zach is entitled “Trust No One.” In an age of universal access to universal information, there are now universal opportunities to deceive and be deceived. Students get this intuitively. Whether they’re paying attention to the President of the United States or their parents, young people have figured out quite correctly that “the rules” are not always the rules. They’ve figured out that there’s lots going on at other levels that must be watched if they’re going to successfully navigate. The failure to trust is the most dangerous trend of all. When trust fails, it all fails. Trust is a foundational freedom, because when we can trust each other, then everything else is possible.

Thought for the week…If you know everything that’s going on, then there isn’t much going on.” – Charlotte Lee

From the League for Innovation in Atlanta…until next week! Don
RTC staffing update

Administrative
- **Dean of Health Sciences** (MnSCU Administrator). Semi-finalists identified; interviews and open forums have been scheduled.
- **Director of Nursing** (MnSCU Administrator). Position posted/advertised nationally. Re-posting/advertising position.
- **Vice President for Academic Affairs** (MnSCU Administrator). Position posted/advertised nationally. Review of applications has begun.
- **Vice President for Student Affairs/Institutional Advancement** (MnSCU Administrator). Semi-finalists identified; interviews being scheduled.

Faculty
- **Instructor of Health and/or Physical Education and Head Football Coach** (UFT MCCFA). Tom Hosier appointed.
- **Instructor of Computer Science** (UFT MCCFA). Unsuccessful search. Discussion ensuing on re-posting, etc.
- **Instructor of Health and/or Physical Education** (UFT MCCFA). Position being posted/advertised.
- **Instructor of English (Composition)** (UFT MCCFA, 2 positions). Positions being posted/advertised.
- **Instructor of Speech and/or Theatre** (UFT MCCFA). Position being posted/advertised.
- **Instructor of English (Composition)** (TFT MCCFA, 2 positions). Positions being posted/advertised.
- **Instructor of Nursing (Medical-Surgical)** (TFT MCCFA, 2 positions). Positions being posted/advertised.
- **Instructor of ESL** (TFT MCCFA). Position being posted/advertised.
- **Instructor of Mathematics** (TFT MCCFA). Position being posted/advertised.

Unclassified Professional (MAPE)
- **Community Outreach Coordinator** (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Dir. 1). Semi-finalists identified; interviews being scheduled.
- **SSSP Academic/Transfer Advisor** (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Dir. 1). Semi-finalists identified; interviews being scheduled.
- **International/Special Needs Advisor** (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Dir. 2). Position posted/advertised.

Classified (MAPE)
- **ITS2**. Position currently being posted.

Unclassified Supervisory (MMA)
- **Director of Continuing Education and Grant Development** (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Supv. 1). Position posted/advertised. Additional recruitment/advertising in process; search team is being formed.

Classified AFSCME
- **General Maint. Worker** (Intermittents). Applications accepted ongoing.
- **Customer Service Specialist** (Temporary full-time; Academic Affairs work area; CE/Workforce Development department).

For information on any of the above openings, contact the human resources office at x7125.

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**It’s a boy!**

Congratulations to Dave and Linda Carisch on the birth of their son, Lucas Nicolai who arrived Monday night, 2-26-01 at 9:23 pm. Lucas weighed in at 8lbs., 2 ½ oz and was 20" long!
Elaine Fladeland Wilbur Scholarship

Available to a high school graduate or older adult who demonstrates a desire, commitment, and ability in spite of significant obstacles or difficult circumstances in their life to attend a higher education college.

Criteria:
1. Student must have financial need
2. Student must be divorced or a child of divorce
3. The student must have attended Pine Island Elementary or High School
4. Adults, several years after high school graduation, are encouraged to apply
5. The amount of the scholarship will be recommended by the committee and more than one student is eligible per year
6. Recipients may also obtain additional scholarship funds in later years

Application must be made by May 1 for the following academic year

Menu of the Week

Taher, Inc.

This week’s panini – Smoked ham and three cheese.................................................................$3.50
This week’s stir fry – Beef and broccoli.................................................................Two sizes: $3.25 & $4.25
This week’s specialty sandwich – BBQ pork riblet.................................................................$2.95

MONDAY – Chicken noodle or cheese and bacon soup
Chicken Cordon Bleu with rice pilaf, vegetable and a roll.................................................................$4.25

TUESDAY – Seven bean and vegetable beef soup
Beef tips and mushrooms over noodles with vegetable and a roll.................................................................$4.25

WEDNESDAY – Lumberjack vegetable or split pea soup
Turkey and cranberry wrap..................................................................................................................$3.95

THURSDAY – Cream of tomato or chicken dumpling soup
Italian sausage sub with chips and a 20 oz. fountain drink .................................................................$4.25

FRIDAY – Boston clam chowder
Fried shrimp with potato wedges, cole slaw and a roll.................................................................$4.25

Congratulations!

Mike Mutschelknaus's presentation at the National Council of Teacher's of English last November has just been selected for inclusion in the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) national database. The ERIC essay is titled "Student Management Teams: Redesigning Course Contexts to Empower Writers." In the essay, Mike explains how to use the quality of idea of continuous improvement in order to improve classroom environments.

KISS Booth - Wednesday, March 7, Atrium, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
Keep It Safe and Sober - Please remind students to stop by for information (Hershey's kisses, too!) on a SAFE Spring Break 2001. Sponsored by Health Services and Student Life.
YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED to prepare the FY02 budget

As you know, Rochester Community and Technical College is asking for a $5.5 million budget increase to cover both inflationary costs and new educational initiatives. Under Governor Ventura's budget proposal, RCTC would only see a $1 million increase, less than half of what the college is projecting in inflationary costs.

Rochester Community and Technical College is also in the process of completing the first long-range strategic plan since the 1996 merger. Five strategic priorities have already been identified by the ad hoc committee:

- Teaching and Learning Excellence
- Student Success and Satisfaction
- Leading-Edge Technology
- Strategic Partnerships
- Leadership and Organization Quality

In anticipation of a reduced budget, yet ensuring RCTC’s strategic priorities align with adequate funding, Rochester Community and Technical College will be convening a RCTC Budget Advisory Task Force during the next few months. Their charge will be to review the current budgets and anticipated revenues, but they NEED YOUR HELP!

**AS A MAJOR STAKEHOLDER OF THE COLLEGE, YOUR INPUT IS VITAL!**

Please take a few minutes to consider both long-term and short-term educational and systemic changes that could be implemented to ensure a balanced budget.

Examples may be:

- Eliminate duplicating internal materials already accessible through the intranet.
- Reduce overtime by 50%.
- Increase rental charges for off-campus groups.

Forward your suggestions by **Friday, March 9** to Judy Kingsbury at Box 1, or via e-mail at judy.kingsbury@roch.edu. **All suggestions will be considered!** The suggestions will be collected and categorized into one of the following key areas and addressed at a RCTC Budget Advisory Task Force Session:

Categories:

1. Teaching/Learning
2. Student and Institutional Services
3. Facilities Operations/Repair & Replacement
4. Non-Personnel and Equipment (Supplies, Travel, Memberships, Printing, etc.)
5. Student Life

*If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dave Weber, Gary Swenson, or Judy Kingsbury*
***** CALLING ALL SHOPPERS!!!! *****

Upward Bound is participating in the School Benefit Sale at Carson Pirie Scott on Saturday, March 10. For a cost of only $5.00 you will receive:

- A chance for a 7 day all-expenses paid trip to Huatulco, Mexico
- 5 - $10.00 gift certificates that can be used for purchases of $50.00 or more on the 10th of March at CPS
- Early admission to the Carson Pirie Scott store from 7:00-9:00 a.m. on March 10, where you will be treated to special savings and refreshments.

Stop by the Upward Bound Office (SS150) to buy your ticket(s) prior to this special day. All ticket sales will help benefit Upward Bound activities.

Recipient for vacation donation program

Listed below are the new individuals who have been approved as a recipient for the vacation donation to the sick leave account program. These individuals may have already or will be exhausting all paid leave time and will be losing health insurance coverages. State employees may donate up to 12 hours (per recipient) per fiscal year to these individuals or any other recipients on the sick leave account. More details regarding these individuals and forms to donate leave are available from the human resources office.

- Jan Larson - Central Lakes College
- Mordechai Dorfman - Department of Transportation

TeachNet Classes

Thursday, March 8th, 3:00-5:00 PM in SH206
Creating quizzes and tests in WebCT: This is a demonstration of the testing utility within the WebCT course delivery software. Users will be shown how to create questions in a question bank, modify tests and questions, import existing tests using Respondus software and automatically deliver and grade the results. It is recommended the observer have a WebCT account and be familiar with this type of software. Please contact Sarah Prigge to register.

Sufficient Grounds Coffeehouse Concert

Michael Walsh
Wednesday, March 7; 12:00–1:00 pm; Quiet Lounge