Recipients 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 one of 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.

Charles Abramson - Department of Human Services.
James Jesse - Department of Transportation
Sherrill Neudahl - Public Safety

You’re Invited!

The RCTC Asian Student Organization invites you to a fun and educational evening of Asian food, fashion, and dance on Friday, March 29, 6-9pm in the RCTC south room. There will also be a silent auction and displays. Admission fee is $3; RCTC students get in free with their ID. All proceeds will be used for scholarships. Bring your family and friends for an exciting evening planned by our student members. Please announce to your classes; spread the word. See you there!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Kathy Peak who has been chosen the Minnesota Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges 2002 Instructor of the Year. She was presented this honor on Friday, March 22, at the MinnMATYC Spring Conference. Way to go Kathy!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2001-2002 Retirees Receptions
Tuesday, April 30, 2002 from 2:00-4:00pm
More details to be announced.
Weekly funny…

"I don't mean to be a butt-insky, but have you considered one of those stress-management classes?"

Scholarships available – please announce

**SCHOLARSHIP** - Steele County Students: Open to all Steele County residents who are pursuing study in a wide variety of medical fields. Applications are reviewed by an advisory panel comprised of Owatonna Clinic physicians, administrators and members of the community. **CRITERIA:** Academic record, demonstrated leadership and initiative, work experience and participation in school and community activities. Award amounts vary. **DEADLINE:** April 1, 2002. Applications available at the UCR Counseling Office or RCTC Foundation Office -Heintz C-120.

Campus Activity Board events – FREE!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Chris Cunningham, Coffeehouse, Tuesday, April 2, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm - Art Gallery/Quiet Lounge**
Chris performed at RCTC with Justin Roth last April and they gave a great performance. (Justin performed solo at RCTC October 2, 2001). Chris is a fluid, open-minded songwriter. He draws his lyrics from many familiar sources and presents them with a perception and understanding that makes an immediate connection with his listeners. His professional career began in the mid-80’s when he joined up with his friend Johnny Hermanson to form a duo that lasted over a decade. (Chris and Johnny, and later Storyhill). Highlights of their touring include opening for Greg Brown and David Wilcox, and receiving a rave review in Billboard Magazine. Chris finds meaning and joy in all places and walks of life and loves to get out the door and down the road with his words and music.

**BOOK FAIR, Wednesday, April 10, Atrium, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm**
Here’s another chance to buy great books at great discount prices (they were here in October and December).

**RCTC’S WORLD DRUM ENSEMBLE, Tuesday, April 23 - South Room (3rd Floor Cafeteria), 12:15 pm – approx. 12:45 pm**
Enjoy a return engagement by the RCTC World Drum Ensemble, MUSC 1340 students, directed by Denny McGuire. You’ll hear authentic ethnic percussion music styles of Samba, Salsa, West African, Caribbean and South American.

**GODDARD LIBRARY AND LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CENTER HOURS**
March 30-31, 2002
Saturday, March 30 9 AM-5 PM
Sunday, March 31 CLOSED
Supalla’s Scribblings

Legislative Update

Things continue to churn at the Legislature but most of the action is occurring behind closed doors. The hottest topic on MnSCU campuses right now is the moratorium on professional contracts. Effective at midnight, February 28, all state agencies, including MnSCU were prohibited from entering into any new contract or renewing existing contracts for professional or technical services. The moratorium extends to the end of the biennium, June 30, 2003. In recent days, MnSCU has been given a “categorical” waiver for instruction related contracts only. MnSCU staff is continuing to work with legislators and officials from the executive branch to find a solution to this problem that significantly hampers campus operations. Legislators still seem interested in wrapping things up in the next two weeks. Stay tuned for developments.

Survey, Survey, Survey

As part of our continuous improvement initiative, selected students and staff will be surveyed in the next few weeks. RCTC is participating in a new national survey focusing on teaching, learning, and retention in two-year colleges. The project, the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), is funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Lumina Foundation for Education. Approximately 60 courses have been randomly selected for inclusion in the study. The survey contains items examining student engagement and retention issues. Research has found that students who read and write more, and who interact in positive ways with their teachers and peers, gain more in terms of essential skills and competencies. Identifying what our students do in and out of the classroom, knowing their goals, and understanding their external responsibilities can help RCTC create an environment that can enhance student learning, development and retention. Thanks to faculty members for supporting this survey effort.

RCTC is again using the Noel Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory to gauge student needs and requirements and levels of satisfaction with their college experience. Our college is one of more than 200 institutions utilizing the survey nationally. This is the fifth consecutive year RCTC has administered the survey that will be administered in 60 randomly selected classes. The college can expect results in late April or May.

The college is also administering the third annual Campus Quality Survey with all staff. This survey measures what’s important to faculty and staff and how satisfied they are with the items surveyed. The survey aligns results with the Baldrige Performance Excellence Framework. Please complete the copy of the survey form you should have received recently. Survey results are expected in early May. Thanks to all who take the time to administer and complete these important assessments.

Budget Rescission

The Office of the Chancellor is planning to send institutions the first run of estimated FY03 allocations on March 22. These numbers will form the basis for beginning serious budget discussions. As we begin to address an appropriation reduction expected to range between $500-600,000 we will be looking at balancing the budget by trimming expenditures, spending down reserves, reducing offerings, and increasing tuition. Chancellor McCormick has taken the lead by reducing the Office of the Chancellor (System) budget by ten percent. This $5.7 million reduction means that those savings will be reallocated to colleges and universities, thus easing our budget reduction.
This and That

- The Student Senate is recommending two fee increases for FY03…a $.35/credit increase in the student life fee ($3.90 to $4.25) and a $.75/credit increase in the access/parking fee ($1.50 to $2.25). The $.75 increase in the access fee would be earmarked for campus security. The leadership team will be sharing the access fee proposal at upcoming meet and confer sessions.

- Congratulations to the Continuing Education and Workforce Development Department whose story “RCTC Workforce Development division builds international reputation” made the cover of the March 2002 SOUTHEAST BUSINESS JOURNAL.

- Happy Birthday to the Association for Career and Technical Education (formerly the American Vocational Association). The organization, a long-time champion for vocational/technical education, is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

- A recent survey of approximately 1,000 students at Bloomsburg University compiled some interesting statistics on how they use the Web. More than 97% said they have used the Web for educational purposes, but often have difficulty in finding what they are looking for. Seventeen percent said they used the Internet for illegal assistance with class assignments, 38% said they accessed pornographic Web sites, 62% said they have used Napster to download music, and 15% said they support the idea of having colleges limit students’ access to controversial Web sites.

- Jot down these dates and plan to attend…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>11a.m. – 1p.m.</td>
<td>Grand Opening of the Technology Center</td>
<td>Atrium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>2-4p.m.</td>
<td>Retirement Reception</td>
<td>CF206/208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>7p.m.</td>
<td>Commencement (Arne Carlson keynotes)</td>
<td>Sports Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>9:30a.m. – 2:30p.m.</td>
<td>Grand Opening of the Sports Center</td>
<td>Sports Center</td>
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</tbody>
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Thought for the Week…

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Norman MacEwan

Keep Giving - Don