Choices news
CHOICES of SE Minnesota, serving displaced homemakers and women in transition throughout Region 10, would like to thank our many supporters in the struggle to maintain funding for the Minnesota Displaced Homemaker Program. With your hard work we succeeded.

Support for the continuation of the program was incredibly strong and heart-warming. Current and former program participants, staff, Advisory Council members, colleagues at Rochester Community and Technical College, Minnesota State College - SE Technical in Red Wing and Winona, Riverland College in Albert Lea and Austin, Winona State University, the University of Minnesota, the Workforce Centers and numerous other community organizations throughout the 11 counties signed petitions, made phone calls, e-mailed and visited with area legislators and the Governor.

CHOICES provides a network of services that may include personal consultation, career and life planning, referrals, assessment, pre-employment preparation, legal information, workshops and more. The program serves persons who are widowed, separated, divorced or who may have a disabled partner; have been full-time homemakers for at least two years and meet income eligibility guidelines. A fee-for-service program allows CHOICES to serve other individuals experiencing major life transitions. The CHOICES program is delivered by Rochester Community and Technical College and funded under grant from the MN Department of Economic Security.

Thank you all for your help in preserving this unique and irreplaceable program.

Maureen Hart, Director
Weekly funny…

“Correct me if I’m wrong, but my office being boarded up while I’m at lunch isn’t a good sign.”

Student Support Services
“Welcome Back” Open House
Thursday, August 30
11:30 – 1:00 p.m.
SS169

You are invited to kick off the school year with ice cream and to say “hello” to new and returning staff and students.

Janell Sara Leslie Sharon Deb Teresa

CROSSINGS
Regular issues of College Crossings begins with this issue. Crossings is published and available on Mondays during the academic year. Get your news out to our staff!!! All submissions for Crossings should be e-mailed to Jenee McGurren by 3:00pm the preceding Friday.

Greetings from Student Life!
All staff are invited to attend all of the Student Life Activities. Look at what we have to offer!

RCTC has ten varsity athletic programs (volleyball, football, soccer, men’s and women’s golf, men’s and women’s basketball, wrestling, softball and baseball). There are also many student clubs and organizations on campus. If there are students in any of your programs or if you know of a group of students with similar interests who would like to start a club on campus, tell them to stop by the Student Life Office, CC404.

The Student Senate is the official voice of the student body. Each fall, eight freshman students are elected to serve with the current eight sophomore senators. Applications are due Wed., September 12 with the elections on Wed., September 19. Please encourage the freshman students to run for the Freshman Senate positions.

For students who like to have fun, the Campus Activity Board (CAB) will give them a chance to plan college-wide entertainment. Send those fun-loving students to CC401!

The great tradition of staff volunteers at Student Life Events is alive and well at RCTC. We count on our administrators, faculty and support staff to assist at many of our activities. Whether you volunteer to help or just want to enjoy the event, your presence will be a ray of sunshine!
Supalla’s Scribblings

For staff who’ve had some time away from campus this summer…WELCOME BACK! I trust you’re looking forward to an exciting year. Activity at UCR has escalated to a frenzied pace with an influx of students looking for last minute registrations, contractors scrambling to make the library functional, staff readying overflow parking space and faculty preparing to meet new students on Wednesday. Enrollment projections for fall semester continue to fluctuate as students add and drop classes. The August 13 enrollment report indicates an 8.52 percent enrollment increase over same day numbers of a year ago. Troy Tynsky, Director of Admissions, predicts we’ll end the semester with a 6-8 percent tuition increase. On Thursday we welcomed and oriented a new cadre of excited employees to the RCTC family. Please take a few minutes during the next week or two to introduce your self to our new colleagues. Have a great year!

New MnSCU Chancellor McCormick has been traversing the state and to date has already visited with more than 85 legislators (including the Rochester delegation). Last week the Chancellor shared his thoughts and work plan at the first of many regularly scheduled staff meetings. The staff meeting was telecast to several MnSCU sites, including Rochester, and was viewed by a small audience of interested constituents. In the next couple of weeks, several showings of the Chancellor’s videotaped remarks will be scheduled. I encourage you to make every effort to view his powerful 30-minute message. Chancellor McCormick has developed an aggressive work plan and made it perfectly clear that it’s not MnSCU as usual. Viewing this video and reviewing his work plan (copies will be available at the viewings and can be viewed on the MnSCU web site) would serve as the perfect primer to the Chancellor’s scheduled campus visit. Chancellor McCormick will be visiting UCR the morning of November 8. A detailed agenda will be shared in advance of his visit, but in general, each visit will include a community meeting, a meeting with faculty and staff and a meeting with students.

RCTC will be down linking the Eighth Annual Diversity Video Conference, “Building Full Partnerships: Purpose, Process and Payoff”, scheduled for Thursday, October 4, from 9-11:30 a.m. Stay tuned for more details regarding this teleconference.

Did you catch a glimpse of a Yellowjacket football player or a member of the supporting cast during the Minnesota Vikings pre-season game with the Pittsburgh Steelers? Thanks to Jim Williams, trainer with a great Viking connection, last year’s National Division III championship football team was honored in a pre-game ceremony by the Vikings. Ninety players, staff and fans had front-row seats on the field and basked in the applause of 63,000 fans when introduced as the only collegiate team in Minnesota to win a 2000 national football championship. The recognition provided some terrific exposure to RCTC and our football program. The players represented us well throughout last season and at the Metrodome. Thanks, Jim…nice going, Jackets!

During the last month, I ran across a couple of studies that seem to be complementary. Both studies were about the meaning of success. Both had to do with the relationship between success and money. The start of a new school/work year seemed a perfect time for sharing some of the findings. First came the results of the annual Randstad North American Employee Review. Some 2,600 interviews were conducted among people 18 to 65. The results show several interesting things that challenge common myths about today’s worker. For example, 81 percent of those age 55 or older said they were interested in trying new things; that certainly runs counter to the assumption that older workers are set in their ways. On the other end of the age spectrum, 77 percent of Generation Xers (workers age 21-35) said they would like to find a company for which they could work for a long time; this goes against the stereotyped view that younger workers are job-hopping opportunists who care nothing about company loyalty. The overwhelming majority of respondents made it clear that they did not equate success with dollars. In order, here are the things that characterize “true success” for those surveyed: being trusted to get the job done (90%), doing work you want to do and enjoy (84%) and having the power to make decisions that affect their work (81%).
It might be important for those of us still at work to listen carefully to some insights from retirees. Ralph Warner interviewed over 50 “contented retirees” for his GET A LIFE: YOU DON’T NEED A MILLION TO RETIRE WELL. He found no major correlation between life contentment and money. Finances came fifth behind health, being interested in life, enjoying friends, and having healthy family relationships. So, remember what will matter most at the end of the day. Relationships that allow trust, opportunities that empower, and the autonomy that comes of good health and choices about one’s own fate are real success factors.

**Thought for the week…**

"A million bucks would be nice. But a life with meaning is worth much more.”

– Kevin Rayner

**Up to Speed!**

Welcome Back! What a busy summer. Walls that were, are no more. New walls and new halls have appeared. Your first challenge may be finding the mailroom and the bookstore!

Academic Affairs has also been under construction.

We have been constructing our personnel for fall: Dr. Nirmala Kotagal, Dean of Health Sciences officially began her duties on August first. We have a significant number of new faculty and staff ranging from adjunct to temporary full time to permanent full time staff. A couple of holes remain but for the most part, the personnel structure in Academic Affairs is solid. Without Jennifer in HR and all of you, deans, faculty and staff who served on search committees, we would not have been able to secure the eager, superbly qualified faculty and staff that you will meet on Monday morning.

Remodeling, too, has gone on in Academic Affairs. Continued work condensing our lengthy value statements into easily recognized and remembered words challenged our RCTC team at this August’s CQUIN Conference. It seemed to the eleven of us working on this project that the following six words pinpointed what was most important to RCTC: **People-Centered, Respect, Teamwork, Excellence, Innovation, Fun.** You will be hearing more about these six.

Construction, too, has been going on at the MnSCU level. Chancellor McCormick presented his work plan to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees on July 18. Since that time, the Academic Leadership Team (Barb Mollberg, Jay Lee, Ellen Nelson, Nirmala Kotagal and me with continuing help from Anne Niccolai this summer) have been aligning the Chancellor’s goals with RCTC strategic goals and with our internal Academic Affairs work plan. We will share these via the next issue of Crossings and at the September 4th Program Leader/Division Coordinators meeting.

We know we have some foundational work to do reviewing the MnTransfer Curriculum and defining General Education at RCTC. Tammy Lee and Jim Kehoe will work with faculty and area high schools on grad standards this fall. Departments and programs will be identifying reading, writing, and math prerequisites for each of their courses. Anne Niccolai, Tammy Lee, Ginny Wright-Peterson and I will attend an AAHE workshop to continue developing an RCTC assessment plan. Rachelle, Mona, and IT are beginning to move to a new scheduling system. Our new course readiness policy intended to help retention and student success is in place for fall.

Changes in Academic Affairs may not be as obvious as our new Sports Center or Bookstore, but we are building a stronger and better structure. The support of the entire structure is its people. Take a look at the marketing brochure with Shirley Wilson on the cover entitled “Learn from the Best.” That’s you folks. I look forward to a great new school year working together.

*Judy Harris*