College Crossings
Rochester Community and Technical College

September 22, 2003
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FALL SEMESTER EDITION

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- PSEOP – Fall 03 PSEOP - Totals

Please Join Us…
The Assessment of Student Learning Committee is meeting on Tuesday, September 23. Everyone is welcome to attend.

DATE: Tuesday, September 23
TIME: 2:30-3:30 p.m.
PLACE: East Hall EA-235

Agenda
* Overview 2004 Assessment of Student Learning Plan
* Discuss General Education "Critical Thinking" Assessment Pilot
* Highlight Summer Program Pilots

PSEOP Information
Once again this semester the Post Secondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEOP) has a record number of students on campus at Rochester Community and Technical College. In fact, each fall semester since 1998 has seen enrollment increases from the previous fall at RCTC. This semester there are 396 PSEOP students from 37 different high schools experiencing college at RCTC. Among those 396 students are 35 homeschool students. See attachments to this week’s Crossings for more information.

An Evening of Giving
Upward Bound Students and Staff are now selling tickets to "An Evening of Giving," a private event of holiday shopping at Apache Mall, which will take place on Sunday, November 16, 2003 from 7:00-10:00 p.m.

This special event for ticket-holders only will feature special offers and discounts from Apache Mall merchants as well as beverages and hors d'oeuvres, door prizes, and live holiday entertainment!

Tickets for An Evening of Giving are $5.00 in the form of a donation. Proceeds will benefit the Upward Bound Scholarship fund. Tickets may be purchased at the Upward Bound Office (SS 150).

Purchase tickets today, help Upward Bound raise money, and get a jump-start on your holiday shopping!!

Meeting Minutes
Click below:
http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting_minutes.html
Weekly Stakeholder and Market Fact

The 2003 Knowledge and Awareness Survey indicates that more than three-quaters of adults in the 30-mile surrounding area have a relationship with UCR. This means they, or an immediate family member, have taken classes with at least one of the UCR institutions. More than six-in-ten adults have personally or have a family member who has taken classes at RCTC.

Spend the summer in Argentina and Peru…

Or how about South Africa, Morocco or Thailand & Vietnam? The Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program provides opportunities for educators and administrators with responsibilities for curriculum development in fields related to humanities, languages, and geographic area studies. All seminars are in non-Western European regions and are designed to provide a broad and introductory cultural orientation to a particular country. Four to six week seminars take place every summer in late June to mid-August in countries around the world. For more information and application forms, see the attachments to this week’s Crossings.

Annual Diversity Conference

Attached to this week’s Crossings is the MCDC’s 10th Annual Diversity Conference. This brochure includes a more detailed description about the conference as well as including newly added important information for individuals who would like to attend the University of Minnesota down link site on the day of the conference which is Thursday, October 2, 2003 from 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at Cowles Auditorium, Humphrey Center (West Bank). If you should have any questions or would like to register, please contact (612) 625-6411 or email.

Farewell to Upward Bound Advisor Eric Wojchik

Please join us Wednesday, September 24 (Eric’s last day) between 10:00 and 11:00a.m. in Student Support Services (SS150) to say bon voyage to Eric Wojchik, as he begins his journey to Scotland.

Condolences

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing away of Jane Toft, RCTC Retiree, on Saturday, September 13, 2003. Jane was 59 years old. Jane began her career at RCC in 1979 as a part-time temporary biology instructor, and later gained her full-time status in 1983. As many of you know, Jane was diagnosed a few years ago with cancer and retired from her teaching position in February of 2001. Our thoughts are with the Toft family! Jane’s ambition, determination, compassion and sense of humor were a model for all of us. She will be missed!

Thank you

Just a note of thanks to RCTC for the lovely Peace Lilly plant as well as your cards, prayers, love and support given to me and the family during the illness and loss of my mom. A special thanks to my Admissions Office co-workers who covered my duties while I was away. It was all very much appreciated.

Bev Hawkinson and the family of Doris Rhoads
Supalla’s Scribblings

The “official” tenth day enrollment numbers are in and RCTC experienced another year of significant growth. Unlike last fall, this year credits sold growth exceeded headcount rate increases. Officially, RCTC has 5796 students enrolled fall semester, a 7.12 percent increase. Full-time equivalent enrollments (based on the number of credits purchased) totaled 4144, a 8.88 percent increase over last year. Thanks very much for the great job you’re doing dealing with yet another significant influx of students.

The September 16 issue of THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION reported that tuition and fees for the current academic year jumped by 11.4 percent at public community colleges. The results of a survey conducted by the American Association of Community Colleges noted that the increase is largely due to state budget cuts. In more than half of the states, community college tuition rose more than 10 percent. California and Virginia colleges had the highest percentage increases, at 60 percent and 42 percent, respectively. Maine and West Virginia did not raise tuition at all. Still, the survey found, average tuition at public two-year colleges—$1,560 annually for full-time students—remains the lowest of any other sector in higher education. The 11.4 percent increase amounts to a rise of roughly $80 per semester. The survey also found that community colleges received 61.3 percent of their revenues last year from state and local governments. That’s up from 56 percent in the 1998-99 academic year. Minnesota’s diminishing state support of public higher education bucks the national trend.

The sour economy has sent more students to community colleges across the country. The enrollment surge is particularly apparent in industrial areas where workers have lost their jobs. America’s job cuts have contributed to soaring enrollment at community colleges, up 16 percent nationally from last year. From the start in a Chicago high school with six students in 1901, community colleges have undergone a metamorphosis, adding vocational training and noncredit courses and certifications and, more recently, holding job fairs and contracting with companies to train the incumbent workforce. Today, about half of the more than 10 million students who attend the nation’s 1,150 community colleges each year go for job training rather than degrees.

Did you know?

- Dani Book, RCTC transfer student, is featured in the St. Thomas “Guide for Transfer Students.”
- Auditors from Kern, DeWenter, and Viere (KDV) will arrive on campus October 13 to begin a several week comprehensive audit. RCTC is one of several colleges and universities included in MnSCU’s second year of full-scale financial audits. The auditors were on campus this week to orient Business Office staff and administrators. Please be cooperative and helpful if auditors wish to visit with you or request information.
- John Tacinelli and Rod Milbrandt welcomed a large contingent of interested planet watchers to the campus on September 4 to view the Red Planet. John provided a brief orientation about Mars to the late-night crowd. Viewers were impressed with RCTC’s observatory, telescopes, and astronomical experts. Thanks, guys!
- The college is hoping to formally commemorate Endicott Hall with a photo and plaque recognizing Alice Endicott. If you have a color photo or information about Alice and are willing to share it, please contact Judy Kingsbury.
- A total of 97 donors (62 first timers) were seen for an on-site blood donation. More than 50 persons donated during this very successful drive. Thanks to all who donated. Mark your calendars and plan to donate during the next UCR expanded drive, November 17-19. Thanks for coordinating the drive, Katie.
- Many thanks to our wonderful A-V and IT staff who moved quickly to put the All College Staff Development sessions held on August 21-22 on the Intranet web site. If you haven’t checked out the streaming video sessions, do so by clicking on http://www.rctc.edu/intra/staffdevelopment/index.html. Nice job, guys!
- Carolyn Losinski, nursing graduate, recently sent her thanks to nursing faculty for a job well done. Carolyn was credited with possibly saving a patient’s life when she questioned a medication dosage. “The doctor’s referral was
written and stated ‘200’ instead of ‘20’ as the doctor had ordered.” Way to go Carolyn and the entire RCTC nursing faculty and staff.

- Ralph Nader’s booking agent has informed the college that Nader will come to UCR on April 20, 2004, as the featured speaker for this year’s common theme, “Corporate Responsibility.” Mark your calendars so you don’t miss it!

- Last year’s Yellowjacket football player Rhys Lloyd has assumed all kicking duties for the University of Minnesota’s Golden Gophers. Rhys is off to a terrific start, scoring in every game and booting kickoffs, punts, field goals, and points after.

- RCTC was the only public institution participating in the inauguration of Crossroads College (formerly Minnesota Bible College) President Bill Luce, Jr. On Saturday, September 11, I joined Mayor Brede, Crossroads trustees, and Bible college reps from across the country in welcoming Crossroad’s eleventh college president to Rochester.

I indicated that if anyone found a good source of e-mail etiquette, to please let me know and I’d share it with you. Both Alex Kromminga and Susan Valvoda-Swanson forwarded information. Over the next ten issues, I’ll share a “Core Rule of Netiquette.” These core rules are excerpted from the book NETIQUETTE by Virginia Shea. Netiquette simply stated, is network etiquette – that is, the etiquette of cyberspace. When you enter any new culture, and cyberspace has its own culture, you’re liable to commit a few social blunders. You might offend people without meaning to. Or you might misunderstand what others say and take offense when it’s not intended. To make matters worse, something about cyberspace makes it easy to forget that you’re interacting with other real people – not just characters on a screen, but live human characters. Rule #1: Remember the human. The golden rule your parents and kindergarten teacher taught you was pretty simple: Do unto others as you’d have other do unto you. Imagine how you’d feel if you were in the other person’s shoes. Stand up for yourself, but try not to hurt people’s feelings. When you communicate through cyberspace your words are written. And chances are they’re stored somewhere where you have no control over them. In other words, there’s a good chance they can come back to haunt you. Any message you send could be saved or forwarded by its recipient. You have no control over where it goes.

Thought for the Week…

Life is too short to spend your precious time trying to convince a person who wants to live in gloom and doom otherwise. Give lifting that person your best shot, but don’t hang around long enough for his/her bad attitude to pull you down. Instead, surround yourself with optimistic people.

– Zig Ziglar

Please help spread the word…Student Success Day is October 1! Have a great week.

Take A Chance! Win a Bike!

Help support scholarship efforts by buying chances to win a Giant Bike! To find out more about the raffle, see the poster attached to this week’s Crossings. Raffle tickets are available from any student ambassador, the RCTC Student Life Office, the RCTC President’s Office and the Foundation Office at Heintz Center. Former MnSCU trustee, Bob Erickson is pedaling 2,300 miles this fall, visiting all Minnesota state colleges and universities to raise scholarship money for part-time students and to make the case for changing Minnesota’s financial aid program to recognize the needs of part-time students. On Wednesday, September 24th, Erickson will arrive at RCTC where he will do the honors and select the lucky winner. Last year, Erickson completed the same tour and raised $79,000 in scholarships for part-time adult students at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

River Clean-up

RCTC's River Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, October 11th. Meet at the East entrance at 10:00 a.m. We are tackling the Zumbro from Wasiuja to Mantorville. Remember…clean rivers are happy rivers!