AFSCME and MAPE STRIKE

AFSCME and MAPE employees went on strike effective 6:00 am, Monday, October 1, 2001. Although we have no additional information at this time, the Strike Update Website is updated on a daily basis, and may be accessed at: http://www.roch.edu

Everyone hopes for a quick resolution, but in the meantime, we must continue to maintain a climate of respect and understanding while continuing to serve the needs of our students.

All UCR employees are dedicated professionals bringing with them essential skills and talents. The employees covered under the two bargaining units involved in the strike have a personal right to decide for themselves whether to participate in the strike or not. Regardless of their decisions, they will continue to be valued members of UCR.

No matter what personal opinions individuals on campus may have it is important to remember negotiations are handled between the state union organizations and the State of Minnesota Department of Employee Relations, and do not reflect direct conflict between any specific employee or group and WSU-RC or RCTC.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact the RCTC Strike Headquarters at 280-5088 or drop into strike headquarters (SS209).

COMBINED CHARITIES CAMPAIGN

The 2001 Minnesota State Employees Combined Charities Campaign is scheduled to run November 1-16, 2001. Campaign packets will be available in the next couple of weeks. There are many organizations throughout Minnesota to which state employees can contribute, so please carefully review the materials.

In addition to the support you may have already provided to your charities associated with the September 11th attack on the United States, please also keep in your hearts and minds those organizations serving you in the community locally.

Because of your generosity Minnesota is a better place to live. This year's goal is $1,200,000. Our communities depend on people like you. Please join us by working and investing in a better Minnesota.

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Event Schedule:
http://www.roch.edu/rctc/about/html/weeklyschedule.htm

Upcoming Yellowjacket Sports

Football
October 11 – MN West
Home* at 7:00 pm
October 16 – Fergus Falls
Home* at 7:00 pm
 * Eyota High School
Volleyball
October 11 – WWTC
Home at 6:30 pm
Soccer
October 14 – St. Olaf JV
Northfield at 1:00 pm

Evening Administration
10/6-10/11 – Tim Gilsrud
10/13-10/17 – Susanne Sheehan
The evening administrator can be reached at x7262.
SUPALLA’S SCRIBBLINGS

With AFSCME and MAPE employees out on strike Monday morning, last week’s edition of CROSSINGS was scrapped. Judy Kingsbury will publish an abbreviated newsletter each Monday for the duration of the strike. Please forward any information you’d like considered for publication to Judy by 4 p.m. on Thursday. Because I had drafted a Scribblings for the October 1 issue, and feel there’s some new information to share this week, you’ll find two editions of Scribblings in today’s publication. Hope you can survive this one-time “Supalla shares” information overload.

This week, we received The Higher Learning Commission Review Committee’s Recommendation regarding our reaccredidation. The Review Committee supported the on-site evaluation team’s recommendation for a five-year reaccredidation (next visit scheduled for 2005-06) with no written reports or focus visits. The Review Committee noted that…

- It’s time to stop contemplating the need to assess student learning and do it.
- Address a broad set of issues, including assessment and general education.
- Define and implement general education philosophy and objectives.
- Move beyond planning to implementation…do not defer action.
- Move forward aggressively to take actions from feedback received from the Minnesota Quality Council and NCA on-site team and do, study and act.
- Utilize the Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP) to assist in accomplishing the above actions.

The five-year reaccredidation recommendation provides the time needed to initiate the AQIP continuous improvement process and address NCA’s assessment and general education concerns. Considering today’s rate of constant change, the principles embodied in a continuous improvement model and our commitment to stakeholders, the five-year recommendation is appropriate and something to be proud of. Congratulations and thanks to all who contributed to this accomplishment!

Congratulations to Janell Holter and the Student Support Services staff who received word that the U.S. Department of Education has awarded RCTC’s SSS program a $37,540 grant to aid eligible participants during the 2001-02 program year. These funds supplement the original $292,773 SSSP grant award. Way to go!

In the aftermath of the tragedy that struck our country on September 11, many of us are still overwhelmed with feelings of fear or anger. While these feeling are entirely justified, we must be careful to ensure that our outrage is never misdirected to those around us. As implications regarding those responsible for the acts of terror committed against us continue to develop…and are occasionally distorted by careless comments in the media…it may be easy for some individuals to engage in stereotypic assumptions, comments, and other negative behavior based on ethnic or religious background of neighbors, co-workers and customers. Such attitudes and behaviors are wrong in any circumstances, but are absolutely unacceptable within the State of Minnesota workplace (including RCTC). As public servants, it is incumbent on us to remember that Minnesota’s statutes and policies specify zero tolerance for discrimination or harassment in any form. Moreover, acts of violence directed toward individuals or groups might also constitute hate crimes and as such are punishable by law. Employees of the State of Minnesota are a diverse group of more than 50,000 individuals representing many national origins, races, colors, religions and points of view. All stakeholders are entitled to a work and learning environment in which everyone feels safe. Committed to diversity, I urge you to practice tolerance and respect for everyone associated with the RCTC family.

On September 17, the Board of Trustees of MnSCU and the Regents of the University of Minnesota signed a Facilities Agreement pertaining to space occupied by the University of Minnesota at UCR. The ten-point agreement defines who manages the campus, financial obligations, and outlines a process for future space utilization. Point 2 clearly delineates MnSCU’s long-term commitment to UCR…

2. MnSCU is the owner of all real estate and facilities on the RCTC campus. The University will use/occupy space and obtain related services based upon specific lease or other appropriate agreement with RCTC.

Thoughts for the week…”The greatest discovery of any generation is that a human being can alter his/her life by altering his/her attitude.” -- William James

“For many people, change is more threatening than challenging. They see it as the destroyer of what is familiar and comfortable rather than the creator of what is new and exciting.”-- Nido Qubein

Let us each respect the decision of those striking and those working…we will be family once again!

Until next week…Don
Although The Higher Learning Commission’s Board of Trustees won’t be taking final action on RCTC’s reaccreditation until October, we found out Monday that they will be approving the on-site evaluation team’s five-year reaccreditation recommendation. Don Baldus (NCA self-study coordinator) and I, along with Della Burt-Bradley (on-site consultant evaluation team chair) appeared before a six-person Review Committee last Monday in Chicago to answer questions regarding the findings and recommendations generated during last April’s on-site visit. Following opening testimony, 30-minutes of tough questioning, and summary closing statements, the Review Committee concurred with the team’s recommendation to grant a full five-year reaccreditation without any focus visits or reports. The Review Committee was very impressed with our involvement in the continuous quality improvement process, agreed with the on-site team that we must begin immediately to assess student learning and reiterated the need to begin now to focus on the integration of general education into occupational program curriculums. The Review Committee was pleased that a permanent leadership team, committed to continuous improvement, is now in place and that progress has been made to streamline our committee structure. The Committee also recommended that we seriously consider using The Higher Learning Commission’s new AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Project) initiative to help us implement the on-site team’s recommendations. The Review Committee’s specific recommendations will be put in writing and will be shared with you as soon as they are received. Official word on our five-year reaccreditation is expected in October and will be shared during a much-deserved celebration. Special thanks to Laura Tachen and Don Baldus who co-chaired the self-study and coordinated the on-site visit, to the Innovative Design Committee for their contributions and to every staff member and student who participated in this important process.

Congratulations to…

- Lori Halverson-Wente who’s Student Activities Workbook for Interpersonal Communications classes was recently published!
- Colleen Landherr, Youth Program Director, for coordinating two excellent summer youth camps and writing such a terrific grant application that the Higher Education Services Organization recently approved a two-year, $150,000 grant. Way to go, Colleen!
- Chad Israelson who was selected as one of three community “experts” KTTC-TV asked to review President Bush’s national address during a live news broadcast. You looked and sounded good, Chad…NBC’s next star???
- Barb Mollberg who planned a wonderful Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony last Tuesday evening. Jerry Casper delivered a wonderful keynote address (ask him what a “pearly” is), Chapter President Matthew Nold shared plans for the upcoming year and 34 new members were inducted into our international honor society. Congratulations!

It is fitting that we continue to remember those who lost their lives to the terrorists and honor those heroes we hear and read about. This week an e-mail popped up on my screen that reminded me how important it is to keep things in perspective.

On Monday, we e-mailed jokes. On Tuesday, we did not.
On Monday, we thought we were secure. On Tuesday, we learned better.
On Monday, we were talking about athletes as heroes. On Tuesday, we relearned who our real heroes are.
On Monday, we were irritated that our rebate checks had not arrived. On Tuesday, we gave money to strangers.
On Monday, there were people fighting prayer in schools. On Tuesday, you would have been hard pressed to find a school where someone was not praying.
On Monday, people argued with their kids about picking up their room. On Tuesday, those same people could not get home fast enough to hug their kids.
On Monday, people were upset they had to wait six minutes in a fast food drive through line. On Tuesday, people didn’t care about waiting up to six hours to donate blood.
On Monday, we waved our flags signifying our cultural diversity. On Tuesday, we waved the American flag.
On Monday, there were people trying to separate each other by race, sex, color and creed. On Tuesday, they were all holding hands.
On Monday, we were men or women, black or white, old or young, rich or poor, Christian or non-Christian. On Tuesday, we were Americans.
On Monday, politicians argued about budget surpluses. On Tuesday, they sang ‘God Bless America’.
On Monday, we had families. On Tuesday, we had orphans.
On Monday, people went to work as usual. On Tuesday, they died.
THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you for thinking of me and my expanding family. Our newest addition is Ross Laird Herber. Ross and his big brother are enjoying the balloon and the stuffed bear. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Michelle Messenger Herber

Thank you for remembering my family and I during the loss of my mother. Your caring and concern was felt hundreds of miles away through a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Thank you to my RCTC family!

Becky Henderson and family

Thank you so much for the plant sent for Gene.

The Family of Gene Bushlack

It is sadly ironic how it takes horrific events to place things into perspective, but it has. The lessons learned, the things we’ve taken for granted, the things that have been forgotten or overlooked, hopefully will never be forgotten again.

Enjoy this beautiful fall weather! Don

CAMPUS REFLECTIONS: ATTACK ON AMERICA

In response to the terrible events of September 11, a website has been created for students to express their thoughts and feelings. The link can be found at the main website (www.roch.edu/rctc) under Enrolled Students and Faculty. The direct address is http://www.acd.roch.edu/news/list.php?group=ucr.acad.talk. Postings can be made anonymously or with names.

For more information contact Virginia Wright-Peterson, 285-7546, MH333 or Lori Stoltz, 285-2809, MH435

STUDENT LIFE NEWS

Coffeehouse Concerts
Justin Roth, Tuesday, Oct. 2, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Kelley Clute, Monday, Oct. 8, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Book Fair
Wednesday, October 10, 2001, Atrium
Buy great books at a great discount - These are brand new current editions.

RCTC CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC
Massages by appointment - Wednesdays - 2:00-6:00pm.
Appointments to see Dr. Elder
Mondays and Thursdays - 2:00-6:00pm.
HC211 - 529-2736

LEARNING BY DOING
30 RCTC students are involved in the Adopt-a-River program. They have chosen to adopt the South branch of the Zumbro River between Rochester and Sandy Point. They will be cleaning the river and educating people about river clean up and pollution prevention. Watch for more information around campus!

MCCC SOUTHERN DIVISION CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

The Men's Golf Team captured the MCCC Southern Division Conference Championship on September 26th with a win at the MN West Invitational. They shot a team score of 307.

Our women have done well as individuals and continue to improve. We finish up our season S/M/T in Mankato with the MCCC State/NJCAA Region XIII Golf Tournament.

CONGRATULATIONS to the young men and women for an outstanding golf season!!

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PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

October 19, 2001
St. Paul, MN; Metropolitan State University

The assessment of prior learning (PLA) is fast becoming a bargaining chip for colleges as we compete for adults returning to college. It appears that everyone is offering college credit for the vast knowledge adult learners bring to the table. If you are a PLA novice, learn how to develop and implement a program that meets accepted academic standards. If you are a more experienced PLA professional, learn to identify the warning signs of program stagnation and to renew your program within your institution.

Who should attend?
- Adult Learning Specialists
- Prior Learning Assessment Faculty and Administrators
- Individuals involved in issues related to skills standards and employability
- Continuing Education Professionals
- Employers investing in workforce education and training
- Educational professionals involved in workforce development programs
- This workshop, sponsored by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), is designed for those who are relatively new to Prior Learning Assessment and have responsibilities for developing or administering a program.

Participants will learn the basic "nuts and bolts" about assessing prior learning and will develop individualized plans for:
- Assuring quality in programs
- Responding effectively to opposition
- Marketing their programs
- Setting fees for students and payments for evaluators
- Evaluating portfolios
- Using a variety of other assessment techniques
- Training new evaluators
- Meeting the standard of regional accrediting associations

Workshop Facilitators
Professor Bob Fox is a self-professed "recovering lawyer" and a member of the founding faculty at Metro State. Fox assisted in designing the institutional system for experiential assessment of student learning, and has worked with the actual assessment of experiential learning of Metro State students since the program's inception. In addition, Fox participated in early CAEL studies and was one of the early CAEL trainers of trainers and of faculty around the country in assessment of prior learning (e.g., at a variety of schools and programs in IL, IN, MO, and Ford-UAW).

Assistant Professor Mary Kirk joined the Metro State faculty in Fall 2000 and has led the faculty retraining workshops on PLA as part of Metro State's new grant-funded Center for Experiential Learning Assessment. As an adult learner, Kirk completed an individualized Ph.D. in Women in Computing at The Union Institute (2000) and an individualized M.A. in Women's Literature at the University of Illinois at Springfield (1996). Kirk served as the graduate assistant in UIS's Credit for Prior Learning Program, where she taught the semester-long priors portfolio development course.

Register by October 12, 2001 to receive Early Bird Registration Discount

To inquire about registration fees and/or obtain a registration form contact:
Lisa Simmons, Meetings Manager
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)
55 East Monroe, Suite 1930, Chicago, IL 60603
lsimmons@cael.org
STAFFING UPDATE

Administrative
• Director of Nursing (MnSCU Administrator). Position open; no applicants.

Faculty
• Instructor of Chiropractic Technician (PT). Position posted, locally advertised.

Unclassified Professional (MAPE)
• Admissions Officer (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Director 1 – MAPE). Position posted/advertised. Search team appointed; review of applications to begin.
• Sports Center Director (FT classified Management Analysis 1 – MAPE). Interviews have been conducted; selection of finalists pending.

Classified AFSCME
• General Maint. Worker (Intermittents). Applications accepted ongoing.
• General Maint. Worker (UFT). Position posted/advertised.
• College Lab Assistant (UPT – Academic Affairs work Area – Chiropractic). Position posted/advertised.

For information on any of the above openings, contact the human resources office at x7125 or visit our website at http://www.roch.edu/rctc/hr/

RED CROSS DISASTER RELIEF FUND DRIVE

What a success!!

While so many of our students struggle financially, they resoundingly showed their generous spirit and patriotism by supporting this week’s Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund Drive. $5004.67 was raised!

After expenses $3,404 will be presented to the Red Cross.

"A WONDERFUL NIGHT TO SHARE"

TICKETS NOW ON SALE IN SS150!!

Upward Bound Students and Staff are now selling tickets to “A Wonderful Night to Share”, a private evening of holiday shopping at Apache Mall, which will take place on Sunday, November 18, 2001 from 7:00 to 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, free gift wrap, and live holiday entertainment!

Tickets for “A Wonderful Night to Share” 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).