Thank You!
Thank you for attending the Annual UCR Holiday Reception. The turnout was fantastic, and the UCR Administrative Leaders deserve a special “thanks” for organizing and treating the employees, retirees, and community guests to some delicious hors d’oeuvre! Thank you to Vern, Robin, and the Horticulture Technology students, who graciously donated the centerpieces for the reception. The flowers continue to add a festive décor, not to mention excitement by the attendees in hopes of winning a poinsettia plant to take home for the holidays.

Finally, a thank you to those who participated in the 2001 Teddy Bear Drive. Over 90 bears have been collected so far. Bears will continue to be accepted in SS202 (President’s Office) through the end of the week (December 21). These bears will be presented to the local law enforcement agencies and then given to children in need of a “friend.” This is the fourth year of the UCR “Teddy Bear Drive”, and the response continues to grow. Thank you, and Season’s Greetings!

Electronic Music Student Recital

Monday, December 17th, 6:00, Hill Theatre

Students from the Electronic Music Classes will presenting original electronic music compositions in their semester "Digital Compositions" recital. The recital is open and free to the public and will be held. The “E-Band”, an electronic Jazz Quintet will be an invited professional group that will also perform at the recital. Kevin Dobbe and Denny McGuire from the RCTC music department will perform.

Come hear some exciting new music created by RCTC students!
Weekly funny…

"Like someone once said-- for every good business idea, there's 1000 bad ones. As you can see, I'm way overdue for that one good idea."

**RCTC Chiropractic Clinic**

**Clinic hours during holiday break**

RCTC Chiropractic Clinic will be open on Thursday December 27 from 2-6 pm, and Thursday January 3 from 2-6 pm. If you have an emergency at this time please leave a message on our voice mail at 529-5236, and messages will be picked up daily. If you need immediate assistance please contact Dr. Jeff Maness at 507-527-2201.

**Christmas Anonymous coat drive**

Heartfelt thanks to all of you who donated to the Christmas Anonymous Coat Drive. We collected 64 coats as well as mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and snow pants. This year many of the donated items were brand new – what a wonderful gift for someone in need. Happy Holidays to you and thanks again for making someone else’s holiday happy!

**Thank you**

Thank you to everyone for your expressions of sympathy at the recent death of my mother-in-law, Bernadine Bird. Your caring thoughts were helpful during this time of loss.

- Judy Bird

**Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Meg Vogel who graduated from Winona State University on December 14th with a Master’s in Science degree with a focus in nursing education.

Congratulations also to Scott Sahs, TeachNet Faculty Support Manager, on earning a Master’s of Science degree in Computer Information Systems from the University of Phoenix.

Way to go Meg and Scott!!!

**FOOD SERVICE HOLIDAY BREAK HOURS**

The UCR cafeteria will be closed Dec. 24th through Jan. 1st and will reopen with limited menu Jan. 2. The Heintz cafeteria will be closed Dec. 24th through Jan. 4th and will reopen Jan. 7th. No catering will be available Dec. 24th through Jan. 1st.

**Student Support Services at Heintz Center Presents:**

**A Holiday Celebration**

Wednesday, December 19th from 1-3 p.m. - Located in HA101

Come and join us for sweet treats and beverages.

All are welcome.
Supalla’s Scribblings

Gail Smith and Shirley Higgin spent last Thursday and Friday conducting the initial national accreditation visit for RCTC’s Health Information Technology Program. During the exit interview, the evaluators had many positive things to say about the curriculum, faculty, and facilities. They will finalize their report over the next several weeks for review by the accrediting council. Later this spring, we will know the recommendation of the Council. Many thanks to Barb Mollberg, faculty members, and staff who did a terrific job pulling the self-study materials together and coordinating the on-site visit.

MnSCU recently released the report of a follow-up space utilization study. In 1998 the Legislature requested detailed space utilization from the Office of the Chancellor. The preliminary report was published in 1999, and was based on fall 1998 data (which was the low point in the system’s enrollment). With steadily increasing enrollments, MnSCU determined it was time for an updated utilization study, this report using fall 2000 enrollment data and official FY01 full-year equivalent data. A summary of findings in the most recent survey include:

- Overall, MnSCU shows an aggregate space deficit of 5%.
- Consolidated colleges show a 10% deficit; 23% deficit projected in 2006. By contrast, the report shows a 7% deficit for community colleges, 7% surplus for technical colleges, and a 5% deficit for state universities.
- With a projected 2% average enrollment growth, the 5% system deficit will grow to a 16% deficit in 2006.
- Space deficits can be addressed by programming, efficiency in registration, multi-use spaces and renovation or reuse of space now coded to different categories. Pursuant to Board direction on maintaining existing assets, additional new square footage should be considered only if all other alternatives for use of existing facilities are exhausted.
- If justified, the next follow-up space utilization study will occur in 2005 in conjunction with planning for the 2008 budget.

RCTC’s classroom utilization of 66% exceeded the MnSCU consolidated college average of 64% and the system average of 63%. Our teaching laboratory space utilization, 76%, exceeded the MnSCU consolidated college average of 73% and the system average of 72%. Based on national space need model comparisons, RCTC currently has a 9% space deficit. The deficit is projected to grow to 24% in fiscal year 2006.

RCTC recently completed a fourth knowledge and awareness study with the community. The survey included adults, age 18 to 44, residing within the college’s service area and provided us with statistically valid measures of awareness and attitudes regarding RCTC. The results of the study will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of RCTC’s communications and marketing efforts and to identify and improve strategies in the coming months. Key findings...

- When asked, unaided, which institutions in the Rochester area come to mind when thinking about higher education, nearly half of the respondents mentioned RCTC, a slight decrease compared to last year.
- Respondents in 2001 were less likely than in 2000 to say they’re “very familiar” with the programs and services offered by RCTC. Thirty-six percent of respondents were very or somewhat familiar with RCTC programs; forty-five percent were slightly familiar. Nineteen percent were not familiar at all.
- When asked to rate their impressions of RCTC on several factors, the attribute that respondents rated most highly was “overall value for the money.” One area that showed significant increase in high rating over last year was “access to computers and technology.”
- Respondents indicated that the attributes that are most important when selecting a college are “quality of the academic program,” “courses offered at a variety of days/times,” and “overall value for the money.” One area that was seen as more important in 2001 than in previous years was “offers flexible enrollment options such as independent study.”
- Nearly six-in-ten respondents recalled seeing or hearing some sort of advertising or promotion for RCTC in the past 60 days.
- Nearly eight-in-ten respondents expressed at least some interest in taking on-line courses through RCTC if they were available. This is slightly higher than in 2000.

Thought for the Week...

*In business [even the higher education business], the terms “customer” and “future” are synonymous. Fail to focus on the former, and there’ll be no latter to worry about.*

– JoAnna Brandi

Best wishes for a joyous and safe holiday season. Enjoy time with family and friends. Happy 2002!
Duplicating holiday hours

Saturday Dec 22  Closed
Sunday Dec 23  Closed
Monday Dec 24 –  8:00am – 1:00pm
Tuesday Dec 25  Closed
Wednesday-Friday Dec 26-28  8:00am - 4:30pm
Saturday Dec 29  Closed
Sunday Dec 30  Closed
Monday Dec 31  8:00am – 4:30pm
Tuesday Jan 1  Closed
Wednesday-Friday Jan 2 – Jan 4  8:00am – 4:30pm
Saturday Jan 5  Closed
Sunday Jan 6  Closed
Monday Jan 7  Regular hours resume

Winter break hours (Library & LTC)
12/23/01-1/6/02 - (hours subject to change due to library remodeling)

Sunday Dec. 23  Closed
Monday Dec. 24  8:00-1:00
Tuesday Dec. 25  Closed
Wednesday Dec. 26  8:00-4:30
Thurs.-Fri. Dec. 27-28  Closed (library remodeling)
Sat.-Sun. Dec. 29-30  Closed
Monday Dec. 31  8:00-4:30
Tuesday Jan. 1  Closed
Wed.-Fri. Jan. 2-4  8:00-4:30
Sat.-Sun. Jan.5-6  Closed

Spring semester hours begin Jan. 7, 2002

Condolences
Condolences are extended to Ellen Nelson whose mother, Mabel Olson, passed away from cancer Saturday night (December 8). Our thoughts go out to Ellen and her family during this loss.

New Student Health and Wellness Group
With the objective of using peer education to encourage positive, healthy lifestyles and healthy decision-making skills for our students, a new student group is being formed. The Student Health and Wellness Group will plan and carry out 1 or 2 events/semester that address health and wellness issues important to college students.

Your help is requested to recruit potential members for this group. If you know a student who may be interested in participating in a group like this, please send me (Katie Swegarden, box #5) their name. The student will receive a personal invitation to join me and other students for an informational meeting. Students will also be invited through flyers and Stinger announcements.

Please contact Katie Swegarden (2887) with any questions or comments.

REMINDER: NO CROSSINGS UNTIL JANUARY 7, 2002.
The deadline for submission will be 3:00pm on Thursday, January 3.