

New Construction at RRCC Expands Access to High Tech Training

The Environmental Training Center (ETC), home to the Water Quality Management (WQM) program at Red Rocks Community College is undergoing a massive expansion. The new building will have four classrooms, expanded laboratory capabilities, a career center, easy access to the Distribution Training Lab, and will be wired for the latest technology.

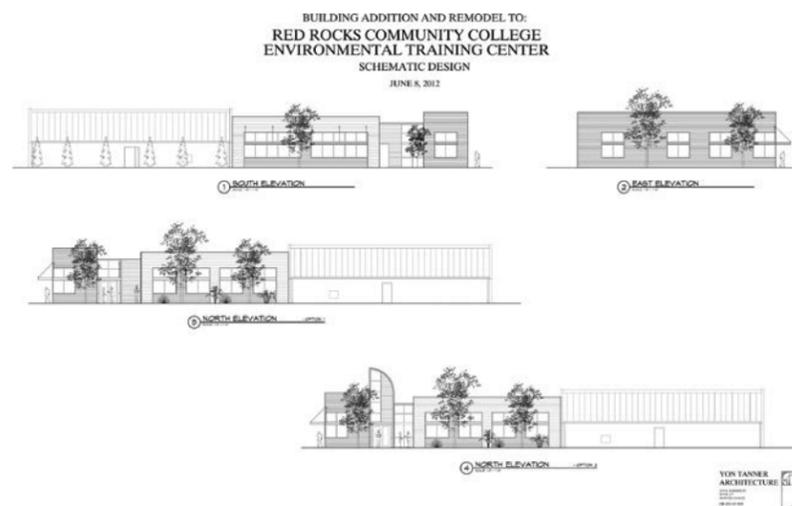
four complete, independent workstations. It is completely equipped with the latest technology used to analyze water.

The mobile learning lab is also a state registered CoWARN Emergency Response Laboratory that, in the event of a water-borne outbreak, can be immediately mobilized to the site to support the

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment with remedial corrective action response providing efficient water quality analysis.

While expansion construction is underway, the mobile learning lab will host all lab courses. The construction project is scheduled to be completed by this fall.

Over past several years, the WQM program has grown in response to industry need with the support of grant funds from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Labor. One of the newest program additions is a mobile learning lab, which has allowed the program to operate statewide. The lab is a 35-foot long trailer completely designed and configured to conduct all analyses that are performed in the stationary laboratory at the WQM training facility. It can accommodate 12 students using



*****SAVE THE DATE*****

2nd Annual RRCC Foundation Alumni & Friends Golf Outing

Friday, July 19, 2013

**West Woods Golf Club, Arvada
8am shotgun start**

**Individuals - \$125, Foursomes - \$500
Hole Sponsorship - \$100**

Four person best ball scramble format, specialty hole prizes, and team prizes for 1st, 2nd, random and last place.

Price includes: 18 holes with cart, range balls, breakfast burrito, golfer goodie bag, drink ticket, and taco bar during awards ceremony.

Scholarship Judges Wanted

Each year, the Foundation needs approximately 100 community members to serve as scholarship judges for an afternoon.

Judges don't need any special experience, just a willingness to spend some time and energy thoughtfully reading through and scoring applications. A brief training will be provided at the beginning of the session.

**When: June 21, 2013, 1-4pm
Where: RRCC, Lakewood Campus**

For more information or to volunteer please call 303.914.6308 or email rita.erickson@rrcc.edu.

Online Giving is EASY! To make an online donation just go to www.givingfirst.org/rrccfoundation.

SAVE THE DATE: December 10, 2013 is Colorado Gives Day!

Bedrock

(bed-rock n. 1. solid rock beneath the soil; 2. a secure foundation; 3. basic principles or facts.)
The Donor Newsletter of the Red Rocks Community College Foundation

From the Executive Director's Desk

In 1993, the Foundation provided one scholarship in the amount of \$800, now 20 years later, more than 200 scholarships totaling over \$325,000 were awarded to deserving students last year. In addition to scholarships, \$350,000 was invested in outstanding faculty, academic programming and campus initiatives.

This past year was dedicated to supporting the excellence and innovation for which Red Rocks has become known. You will see snapshots of those values throughout the newsletter such as the PTK Chapter receiving national acclaim and the growth of the Water Quality Management program. What you won't see is the hundreds of names that make Red Rocks an incredible institution of higher education. Each member of the faculty and staff is dedicated to the 14,000 students that come each year to learn and grow. Many of these same dedicated individuals are donors; in fact faculty and staff giving has more than doubled this year.

For the past two decades, the Foundation has worked hard at supporting the College and its students, faculty and staff. We have awarded 2,350 scholarships totaling over \$3.4 million. During that same time period we also provided over \$3.1 million in program support, but we could not have done any of it without the support of our donors, on- and off-campus. We are grateful for your investment in our shared vision and I promise that we will be working hard to make the next twenty years even better – I hope you will join us!

All the Best!

Ron Slinger

2013-2015 Endowed Teaching Chair Award Recipient Announced



From left to right: RRCC President, Dr. Michele Haney and Wendy Bird surrounded by RRCC students.

Business Department Chair, Wendy Bird has been named the Mike Leprino Family Foundation Endowed Teaching Chair for 2013-2015. The RRCC Foundation Teaching Chair program recognizes and awards outstanding faculty with a three-year salary enhancement of \$5,000 per year and \$2,500 per year for professional development. This special award was initiated in 2001 when the Mike Leprino Family Foundation and Coors Brewing Company endowed the first two chairs.

This year Bird and two others were selected by a peer committee as finalists from among eight applicants after a portfolio review and teaching demonstration. The three finalists were forwarded to a committee made up of RRCC Foundation Board of Directors.

Bird became full-time faculty in 2004 and department chair in 2011. While teaching, she strives to create an environment dictated by respect, humanity, humor and

passion; she believes that in this way her students can become empowered learners. "Ultimately I want my students to walk away feeling like my class mattered," stated Bird in her philosophy of teaching statement. Numerous student comments note the high level of expertise held by Wendy, her ability to relay information in an engaging way, and the students' overall learning experience being extremely positive.

The Foundation Board Selection Committee noted how impressed they were with the quality of all three presentations and how difficult it was to make a final selection. While Wendy Bird was selected as the next Teaching Chair recipient, the Foundation Board voted to award the other two finalists each a one-time \$2,500 professional development stipend to be used in pursuit of their professional excellence.

Report on the Rocks

PTK Recognized Internationally
Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Kappa Sigma chapter at RRCC earned regional and international accolades for the 2012-2013 academic year at the recent Hallmark Awards Gala.

Distinguished Chapter Officer Award – RRCC Chapter President, Rita Erickson.

Distinguished Chapter Officer Team Award - RRCC President Rita Erickson, Vice-President Robert White and Vice-President, Cody Oldham.

Regional accolades:

- 5 Star Chapter Award
- Distinguished Chapter Officer
- 1st place for College Project, *Wellness Initiative*
- 1st Place - exploring the theme of

Psychology as part of the Honors in Action Project
- 3rd Place - Honors in Action Project "Rock Stars", which showcased the accomplishments and diversity of the RRCC student body. See the project at www.rrcc.edu/rockstar/.



Left to right: Cody Oldham, Rita Erickson, Robert White

Phi Theta Kappa has over 1300 chapters worldwide PTK is the International Honor Society of two year colleges and recognizes academic achievement. Founded in 1918, membership is by invitation only.

Congrats 2012 Graduates!
Red Rocks Community College conferred more than 1,400 degrees and certificates to students during the 43rd commencement ceremony held on May 18, 2013.

STEM Activities

The Engineering, Technology and Math Clubs have formed a collaborative partnership to create STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related activities for current and future students on campus. This past February, students from Skinner Middle School, a low income school, visited for a day of STEM related activities. They were provided with binary name tags and participated in several hands on activities including a science experiment to make ice cream. The students were surveyed afterwards and over 80% of them said that this visit made them consider aoina to colleae.

Incentive Fund Expands Student Scholarships for Red Rocks Students

Red Rocks Community College has accepted a challenge to raise \$10,500 in new money to support student scholarships. For every new donation that is received before June 30th, the Father Woody/Davis Family challenge fund will provide a dollar for dollar match up to \$10,500 total. Several individuals and groups have come forward to help the Foundation meet the challenge in just a few short weeks.

The Colorado Community College System Foundation developed the Father Woody/Davis Family challenge fund to leverage new or increased donations to the

individual colleges that make up the 13-college Colorado Community College System. New money is considered any donation from an individual who has never donated, lapsed as a donor, or donated above the level he/she gave in the previous year.

The CCCS Foundation anticipates launching similar campaigns in the future. This may be a great opportunity to start thinking about establishing a scholarship or endowment and have your contribution matched.

Establishing a scholarship – generally starting at \$1,500/year – can be named in honor of an individual, family or group and

provides much needed support to deserving students, many of whom are pursuing high demand careers that meet the needs of our community.

Endowments – which require a minimum contribution of \$10,000 - provide a way to leave a lasting legacy that strengthens those priorities you deem most important and ultimately affects the lives of thousands of students and families, and their communities for years to come.

For more information about scholarships, endowments or planned giving, please contact Executive Director, Ron Slinger at 303.914.6417 or by email at ron.slinger@rrcc.edu.

Women Professionals Inspire Students at 2nd Annual Networking Event

Students and female professionals came together on April 5th to share an afternoon of career exploration and networking at the 2nd Annual Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders event. Students and female professionals alike shared their excitement for the day.



The event was generously sponsored by Environmental Resource Associates - ERA is a provider of certified reference materials and proficiency testing products to labs internationally; Red Rocks Community College's Water Quality Management Program – training the next generation of water and wastewater operators, and Colorado Women's College at the University of Denver –offering an educational environment for female thought leaders to emerge.

Sponsored by



Group Photo of Women Professionals

The event kicked-off with a keynote address by Kim Carver, President and CEO of Altitude Sports and Entertainment. Ms. Carver is one of only two female cable network CEOs in the country. She shared her encouragement with all the students to continue reaching for their goals.



Kim Carver, Keynote Speaker

According to one student, "It was amazing to meet with so many women leaders. They were very encouraging, and open about their career paths." Similarly, the professional women expressed their gratitude for being able to participate and the opportunity to share their experiences with students who were so engaged.

If you are interested in participating as a professional or as a sponsor in next year's event please call us at 303.914.6308 or email kristin.aslan@rrcc.edu for more information.

Alumni Spotlight

A Message sent to RRCC President, Dr. Michele Haney and others at RRCC who touched the life of Dina Heese during her educational journey. Dina was a two time recipient of scholarships through the RRCC Foundation.

I am graduating from Regis with a BA in Liberal Arts and a Teaching License. I just finished student teaching at Escuela de Gaudalupe teaching all day in Spanish- it was awesome! I am graduating with honors AND wait for it..... I'm speaking at the end of my graduation!!! You are more than welcome to come and if you do make sure you ask to sit in the "VIP" seating. Don't feel like you need to come, but I wanted to let you know because if it wasn't for you I wouldn't be here! YAY!

I leave on Sunday to teach for a month in Mexico. I already have a

job as the Summer & After School Site Coordinator with Arvada K-8 and Foster Elementary. My family is doing great and I feel incredibly blessed!

I wrote this story last night and it is very relevant to how I am feeling now. I have "bloomed" and you were the ones who helped me get here. I cannot say it enough- THANK YOU!

"SEEDS"

So I talked to two garden experts today because I planted a bunch of flower seeds last weekend. I asked if I should cover them because of the snow.

The first master gardener said, "No, many seeds like to be cold and dormant for a while and it may help them to bloom." The other gardener I talked with said,

"A lot of time seeds won't bloom unless their cracked and scratched. Sometimes you have to be rough with them and scar them for them to grow."

I couldn't help but think of our lives. So many times we have to be cracked, scratched, and scarred before we can bloom. Don't worry- if you're feeling dormant- you're just getting ready to one day bloom!



Dina Heese pictured here with Santiago, the younger of her two sons.