

# The ASSOCIATE

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## Students, Faculty, and Staff Represent RCC at State Capitol

RCC student leaders, faculty, and staff members recently had the opportunity to attend the annual Higher Education Day at the Capitol and serve as advocates for the education they are receiving.

Higher Education Day at the Capitol is an annual event that recognizes the importance of higher education in the state of Oklahoma. Representatives from institutions of higher education were invited to participate in activities at the Capitol, which included presentations by Dr. Glen D. Johnson, Chancellor, Oklahoma State System for Higher Education; Jari Askins, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Oklahoma; students from across the state of Oklahoma, and more.

Students who attended include Andrea Lynn, Alberto Sanchez, Whitney Gardner, Jacob Palmer, Desirae Rainbow, Chelsy Simpson, Jody Vincent, and Carlee Nicklos. Faculty and staff attending include Dr. Larry F. Devane, Joel Drury, Dr. Juanita Krittenbrink, Mike Raymond, Dr. David Dalbow, Michelle Herand, and Meg Cannon. Also joining the group were Burrell Gambel, RCC Foundation President, and Regent Bill Pope.



## RCC Alum Selected for Prestigious Program

RCC alum Richard Myers, El Reno, has been selected to participate in the 2008-09 class of the prestigious Ranch Management Program at Texas Christian University (TCU). The program, based in Fort Worth, Texas, has been educating leaders in the cattle industry for more than 50 years and places a strong emphasis on teaching practical, productive, and economically sound ranch business and management skills.

TCU's ranch management program was developed to include field work, which coordinates with classroom study to illustrate principles as they are applied in production situations. The program has limited admission and each year students vie for the opportunity to gain entrance to the program.

"Richard was selected based upon his strong agriculture background, college experiences and his successful interview," said Kerry Cornelius, TCU Ranch Management Program Director. "We want to select the best applicants possible and then help them be successful in profitable agriculture production and sustainable natural resource management. We want to give them the tools and the information to make significant contribution to the agriculture industry."

TCU's program focuses on producing agricultural resource managers who are prepared to work with advanced technology and succeed in the global agriculture economy. Courses in the ranch management program include livestock production, natural resource conservation, forage production, accounting principles, and marketing.

"I was first interested in this program when I heard about the success graduates have had in the industry," said Myers. "I was impressed by the quality of the program, and with my background in agriculture and my education, it seemed to be the best way to reach my goal of managing a ranch. I am looking forward to making connections that help me in the future."

According to Cornelius, TCU's program is designed for success and to assist individuals in reaching their full potential. The hands-on program gives students the opportunity to learn, first hand, the management policy currently used in breeding programs, animal health, feeding, crop production, and harvesting.

"Richard is a very sharp student and he is interested in his education. At Redlands, he has taken equine courses and assisted in training Redlands horses, in addition to his general agriculture courses," said Justin Lynn RCC Equine Instructor and Redlands Royse Ranch Manager. "I am very proud of Richard and his accomplishments and I will continue to support and help this young man."

According to Amanda Evert, RCC Division Director for Agriculture and Equine Studies, while attending RCC, Myers has taken full advantage of the opportunities available in the agriculture program.

"Richard earned both his associate's and bachelor's degrees while taking classes on our campuses," said Evert. "Through a cooperative agreement with Missouri State University, Richard was able to take his upper division courses through MSU, via Interactive Television and Internet courses. In May, Richard will be in our first class of MSU Pathways Program graduates at Redlands. We are so pleased that he has decided to continue his education at TCU in the fall."

# RCC Student Named Nigh Scholar

He's a servant leader who's involved in nearly every activity available at Redlands Community College, as well as numerous community activities. In addition to his co-curricular involvement, he maintains an honorable grade point average and is dedicated to his studies. He is Michael Jensen, RCC's George and Donna Nigh Public Service Scholarship recipient.

The George and Donna Nigh Public Service Scholarship was established by the 1999 Oklahoma Legislature to provide scholarship opportunities to outstanding students who are preparing for careers in public service.

Jensen, a sophomore animal science major from Minco, was selected for the scholarship award because of his high academic achievement and involvement. As part of the award, he attended the George and Donna Nigh Public Service Leadership Academy earlier this spring. During the academy, Jensen made personal contacts with the state's business leadership, governmental leaders, and academic community.

Jensen found the academy very informative.

"While we were in Oklahoma City, we learned about a lot of different political issues facing us today – water, energy, leadership, and others. We had the opportunity to listen to a lot of different speakers and got to meet Governor Nigh," Jensen said. "There was a lot of information crammed in to four days, but it was a very enlightening experience. I've learned that we're going to have to make some serious decisions about the future for future generations."

According to Amanda Evert, RCC's Division Director for Agriculture and Equine Sciences, Jensen is a dedicated leader.

"While attending Redlands, Michael has truly been a student leader. His dedication and hard work have been greatly appreciated, not only in the agriculture program, but also throughout campus," Evert said.

Jensen currently serves as president of RCC's Students

in Free Enterprise (SIFE), vice president of the Aggie Club, and as a Resident Assistant at Cougar Crossing, RCC's student housing complex. He also was inducted as a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year college students.

Ed Zweiacher, agriculture instructor and Aggie Club sponsor, appreciates Jensen's dedication.

"As vice president, Michael has been actively involved in developing an Aggie Club scholarship and in other club fundraisers," Zweiacher said. "The purpose of the Aggie Club is for students to be actively involved in the campus community.

And, it provides students an opportunity to socialize with students from other areas and states. I have enjoyed having Michael in class and having him as a member of the officer team."

Academically, Jensen has been named to RCC's Vice President's Honor Roll, an honor reserved for those who have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours, have no grade below a "C", and achieve a grade point average of 3.50-3.79 on a 4.0 scale. He also served as an Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST) intern, during which time he completed his undergraduate applied research project, "The Effects of Bio-Stimulants on Feed Crops for Ruminants".

Jensen has enjoyed his time at RCC.

"Redlands has been very convenient and perfect for me. I always wanted to be really involved in college, and RCC has offered me that chance. Plus, money-wise, it's been a great value," Jensen said. "I came from a high school class of 30 students and the transition to college life at Redlands has been smoother than I could have imagined. I've really enjoyed living at Cougar Crossing; it's been a great first home-away-from-home."

After graduation from RCC later this month, Jensen plans to transfer to a four-year college, most likely Oklahoma State University, to complete his bachelor's degree in animal science.

"Ultimately, I would like to either go to vet school or go on to get my master's degree so that I can do research in the science field," Jensen said. "My experiences at Redlands and as a Nigh Scholar have reassured me that I want to work in the agriculture science field."



**Michael Jensen**  
RCC's George and Donna Nigh  
Public Service Scholarship recipient



## Enroll Now for Kids College 2008

If your school-aged children are looking for something fun to do this summer, then Redlands Community College has the solution with their 2008 Kids College program! RCC's 2008 Kids College is scheduled for June 23-27 and July 14-18 and enrollment currently is underway.

RCC's Kids College offers school-aged children, from five years and older, the opportunity to spend time having fun while learning. Classes are based on age groups to better facilitate learning for participants. Cost for RCC's Kids College is \$30 per child, per class, and includes all supplies and an official Kids College T-shirt. All classes are taught on RCC's campus.

With a wide variety of classes this summer, there's something for nearly every learner, including classes in gymnastics, water games, martial arts, reading, science, art, , and much, much more. For a complete schedule of classes and registration information, visit RCC's website at [www.redlandscc.edu](http://www.redlandscc.edu).

For more information or to register by phone, contact the Kids College message center at 405.262.2552, ext. 2631.

## Phi Theta Kappa Wins Awards

Two officers of Redlands Community College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, alongside RCC's two chapter advisors, recently returned from their organization's regional convention with several awards.

Kelly Wood, El Reno sophomore and President of RCC's chapter, and Virginia Lozada, Mustang freshman and Vice President of Communications of RCC's chapter, attended the two-day regional convention in Ardmore. Michelle Herand, RCC's Lead Advisor, and James Mauldin, RCC's Co-Advisor, also attended the event.

During the regional convention, RCC's rating status as a Five-Star Chapter was renewed. Phi Theta Kappa's Five-Star rating is the highest status that a chapter can achieve; it is based upon excellence in Phi Theta Kappa's Hallmarks of Scholarship, Leadership, and Service, as well as other areas.

RCC's Phi Theta Kappa also received first place in the Service category of the Hallmark Awards. Hallmark Awards honor chapter accomplishments in the categories of Scholarship, Leadership, and Service.

Herand and Mauldin both received Phi Theta Kappa's Horizon Award, an award that recognizes new advisors for participating in regional and international programs. The awards are presented based upon recommendation from a Regional Coordinator.

Phi Theta Kappa's mission is to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of students and to provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service, and fellowship activities.



## State Regents Recognize Partnership

Redlands Community College was among 21 institutions throughout the state recently recognized for their outstanding partnerships with community businesses.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Economic Development Grant for the Partnership Recognition Program is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses and to further cultivate the higher learning environment through State Regents' Economic Development Grants.

Kingfisher Kookers, the oldest continuously operating grill manufacturer in the United States, established a partnership with RCC in 2006. This partnership began when the management of Kingfisher Kookers started working

with Mike Raymond, the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance extension agent housed at RCC, to streamline operations and increase profitability. Through this partnership, Kingfisher Kookers has virtually reinvented themselves as a modern operation by redesigning their plant layout and increasing production flow, implementing lean manufacturing, utilizing the advantage of Oklahoma tax incentives and increasing cash flow.

"If we're to improve Oklahoma's future, we need creative collaborations like this program," said Chancellor Glen D. Johnson. "The partnership between business and higher education benefits us three-fold: Businesses retain employees, employees improve their education and the immediate needs of the business community are being addressed."

Institutions involved in these partnerships provide \$500 for tuition waivers to employees of the partnering businesses, internships for current students of the institutions to work at the partnering businesses or faculty externships with the partnering businesses. The State Regents provide a \$500 match to the waivers.

Photo outline: From left to right: Mike Raymond, Redlands Community College; Dr. Larry F. Devane, Redlands Community College; Saul Moyeda, Kingfisher Kooker; Dr. Jeff Hale, Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and Jack Bryant, Redlands Community College.

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## RCC's SIFE Completes Projects Throughout the Year

Members of Redlands Community College's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) have had a busy year! RCC's SIFE has completed numerous service projects during the past academic year.

In February, members of the SIFE team hosted a Global Education Fair at Darlington School. The week-long educational fair was presented to educate elementary school students on global economics and instill in them an interest in world trade agreement. During the first three sessions, SIFE team members gave 30 minute presentations on import/export information for the United States, Brazil, Japan, and France. On the final day of the fair, SIFE members presented each student with a box of crayons and a coloring book designed by the SIFE team.

In March, RCC's SIFE team joined other teams from around the country to participate in the Edison Project, an environmental sustainability project. SIFE's Edison Project focuses on ways to consume fewer resources, which allows for quicker natural replenishment of resources to Earth. As part of the project, RCC's SIFE team decided to focus on the benefits of Compact Florescent Light (CFL) bulbs. CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy than incandescent light bulbs, last up to ten times longer, and each bulb can save approximately \$44 in energy costs over its lifetime. SIFE members donated 50 CFL bulbs to the Center of Family Love's El Reno Group Home. Members received the bulbs through a donation from Tom Martin and Julie Ross-Martin, owners of Ross

True Value Seed and Feed in El Reno. The Center of Family Love's Group Home was chosen so that SIFE members and residents could easily see a measurable difference in their utility bill.

RCC's SIFE team also presented information on a program that assists high school students with decisions about future educational and career plans to a class at Okarche High School. Members demonstrated the Oklahoma Career Information System (OKCIS), a system that combines a multitude of information, including career, education, and labor market information, into one singular website. OKCIS offers high school students the opportunity to build a portfolio full of researched career and education information, search for scholarships, find college and training programs based upon career choice, and how to identify possible career choices through skills and interest assessment tools. Students also were shown how to access practice ACT tests on the site.

SIFE is a nonprofit organization that provides students with the tools to learn the free enterprise system in a real working situation. The student organization is a partnership between business and higher education that is preparing the next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders to create a better world for everyone. SIFE concentrates on five areas: entrepreneurship, market economics, success skills, financial literacy, and business ethics.

Terri Barger, Career Services Coordinator/Instructor, serves as RCC's SIFE team leader.

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