

The ASSOCIATE

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Devane Named El Reno Citizen of the Year



In recognition of his many contributions to his community, Dr. Larry F. Devane, President of RCC, was named El Reno Citizen of the

Year during the El Reno Chamber of Commerce annual banquet.

Each year, the El Reno Chamber of Commerce selects an El Reno citizen to be named Citizen of the Year. According to Karen Nix, Director of the El Reno Chamber of Commerce, the award is presented to a citizen who works tirelessly to make El Reno a better community, through either his or her profession or through volunteerism.

Devane, who has created a vision for RCC that includes state of the art technology, instructional and training access, varied course and program delivery modes, student focused facilities, and a high standard for competitive athletics, has served as RCC's President since 1990.

His state and community leadership roles are varied, including serving on the Board of Directors of the El Reno Chamber of Commerce Foundation for Progress, El Reno Federal Corrections Institute Community Advisory Council, Canadian Valley Integris Hospital Board of Directors, Vice-President of the Canadian County Greater Oklahoma City Metro United Way, and Coordinator of Leadership Canadian County as well as past President of the Oklahoma Two-Year Colleges Presidents Association.

RCC Wins National Golf Championship

RCC's Women's Golf Team spent most of the year ranked as the number one women's team in junior college golf. Now, they can rest assured that they have earned that ranking, as they were crowned champions of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Women's Golf Tournament on May 18.

RCC's total score of 1217 for the four-day tournament led them to a 19-shot win over Daytona Beach Community College, the three-year defending national champion. The tournament was played at Halifax Plantation Golf Club in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Woori Shin, Nagoya, Japan, shot a 296 to win the tournament and the accompanying individual national title. Camila Sola, Buenos Aires, Argentina, shot a 303 for third place. Grace Jeong, Lawrence, Kansas, had a total of 309 to tie for sixth place with Brianna Vargas, Altus. Jaryn Rainey, Burneyville, earned 13th place with her 320.

Head Golf Coach, Randy Keck, is extremely excited about his team's performance at the national tournament.

"We've had an amazing year! Our entire team has really worked hard all year and we're very pleased to be able to bring home the national championship," Keck said. "I'm very proud of all of our players. They have worked hard all year long in the classroom and on the golf course."

All five of the national team members also earned All-American Honors. Shin and Sola were named First-Team All-Americans; Jeong and Vargas were named Second-Team All-Americans, and Rainey was named Honorable Mention All-American.

Shin's first place individual victory marked the second year in a row that an RCC player has been named the top player in the nation. Last year, Sola, who has signed a National Letter of Intent to play at Arizona State University, won the individual crown.

Winning the national title was the capstone for an outstanding season, as the team won five additional tournaments during the year, including those hosted by North Texas State University, Cameron University, Texas A&M University – Commerce, and Northwood University, as well as the Region II tournament, hosted by Oklahoma Baptist University.

Keck already is eagerly anticipating next season.

"I'm very excited about next season. We've got several strong players returning from last year's team and we're bringing in some great new players, too," Keck said. "I think that we're going to have another great year and I'm looking forward to the fall."



Front row (from left): Jaryn Rainey, Brianna Vargas, Camila Sola. Back row (from left): Grace Jeong, Woori Shin, Coach Randy Keck, Ashley Brassfield

RCC Student Named Miss Red Earth 2006

While some college students spend the summer resting and relaxing, Redlands Community College student Bridget Blackowl is spending her summer doing anything but lazing away the long summer days. Blackowl, who just completed her freshman year at RCC, recently was named Miss Red Earth 2006.

As Miss Red Earth 2006, Blackowl was extremely involved with the 20th Annual Red Earth Festival, which was held in downtown Oklahoma City. In addition to traveling to Denver and Albuquerque to promote the festival, she participated in nearly all of the Red Earth Festival's events, which included a parade, run, art competitions, dance contests, and more. Overall, Blackowl served as an ambassador for the festival.

According to Gordon Yellowman, Cheyenne-Arapaho Chief, Blackowl's selection as Miss Red Earth 2006 is an honor. "Bridget is a well respected and upstanding member of our tribe. She is an outstanding role model and is very deserving of this honor," Yellowman said.

Blackowl, an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, is steeped in her tribe's customs and traditions. She has danced in the Southern Cheyenne buckskin dress for many years and is an award winning dancer with numerous championships in Tiny Tot, Junior, and Teen Traditional. In 2003, she was named Cheyenne Tribal Princess, which is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon young women.

Serving as Miss Red Earth is the first of many activities that Blackowl has planned for her summer. "Summer is a very busy time for me. After the Red Earth Festival is over, I'll be taking classes here (RCC), attending powwows across the state, and working," Blackowl said. "I've been playing softball every summer since I was 14, so I plan on playing in some fast-pitch tournaments this summer, too."

Throughout the year, Blackowl, a nursing major, spends her time outside of the classroom working as a File Clerk for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe Economic Development Office, volunteering at the Pets and People Humane Society in Yukon, enjoying a variety of outdoor activities, and spending time with her friends and family.

"I really enjoy spending time with my nieces and nephews. We like to do all sorts of different things together, like going to the movies or just playing outside," Blackowl said. "I think it's really important to spend time with them and it's lots of fun!"

Last September, Blackowl was one of the featured dancers during RCC's Cheyenne Visions II Cultural Performance, a performance that coincided with the Cheyenne Visions II art exhibition. Taking part in the cultural performance was just the beginning of Blackowl's experience at RCC.

"So far, I've really enjoyed being at Redlands. All of the people have been really great and I've like my classes," Blackowl said. "I'm definitely looking forward to coming back for my sophomore year."



RCC Joins with Other Colleges for NSF Grant

RCC is pleased to announce that they are part of a consortium of six community colleges that has received a National Science Foundation (NSF) planning grant for two-year colleges. The grant recently was awarded to the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) and National Council of Instructional Administrators (NCIA), an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

The grant, "Two Year Technician Education and Transfer Programs: Tapping the Potential of Undergraduate Research," has goals of exploring the current status of undergraduate research in two-year programs, identifying potential partners, developing resources, and proposing a plan for establishing new partnerships to broaden the involvement of students in research.

According to Dr. Penny Coggins, Title III Coordinator/Grants Developer, RCC's administration is very excited about the opportunity that this grant provides.

"Being associated with the National Science Foundation will provide an amazing network of individuals in the undergraduate research area for our students, as well as access to research information and potential funding opportunities in the future," Coggins said. "Redlands is emerging as a leader in undergraduate research and this opportunity will expand those efforts, benefiting our students and faculty members. This is the first opportunity that we've had to be involved with a National Science Foundation grant and we're very excited to be involved with such an outstanding organization."

Five other schools are involved with RCC in the grant. Throughout the duration of the grant, each college will host regional planning and conversation meetings, which serve as the cornerstone of the grant.