RA News Flash!


*The Campus Coach*, a new online course that Michele Lesmeister, RTC ABE/GED faculty member and RAT Pack Leader, is developing with WestEd is set to be available in September 2012.

The Pack Returns in September

The RAT Pack is taking Summer Quarter off, but will return with a September issue of *RAT Tracks* that focuses on how to get an early start on embedding Reading Apprenticeship® (RA) into your curriculum and sustaining RA in your classroom. Look for a notebook of RA materials from across campus at the Fall Faculty In-Service.

It appears that RAT Pack leader, Michele Lesmeister, will return to the classroom full-time in Fall Quarter, teaching ABE/GED in the morning and a *Transition to College* class in the afternoon. However, she is reserving time on Friday afternoons to help model and promote RA at RTC and at other colleges throughout the state.

Saluting the RAT Pack

In 2008, the a Reading Apprenticeship® (RA) support group was formed at RTC – the RATs (Reading Apprenticeship Teachers and supporters). The RATs planning group, the RAT Pack, was formed to help implement RA at RTC. The project was funded by an “Achieving the Dream” grant from 2008 – 2011 and in 2011, RTC was named an “Achieving the Dream” Leader College.

Michele Lesmeister has served as Pack Leader and worked to bring RA to our campus since April 2008. She has inspired and modeled for faculty ever since. Michele has written current *RAT Tracks* issues and many of the lead articles in the *RAT Review*, a newsletter published in 2009-2011. Michele worked with WestEd to create the first ever online faculty course in RA and she is spearheading the second course for Campus Coaches in RA with the support of the WEC Board. Michele won a 2012 *Ahead of the Class Award* from the Renton Chamber of Commerce and the 2012 *Anna Sue McNeil Assessment Teaching and Learning Award* from the SBCTC for her work on campus with Reading Apprenticeship.
Debbie Crumb has served the Pack and the college as the keystone to library collections for Reading Apprenticeship and overseeing the formatting and editing of all the newsletters and storing the archives of our RA work including poster templates, special events, PowerPoint files, and all else. She has help grow the library’s collection of reading materials for students and faculty and served as a RA trainer, mentor, and model. In addition, the Reading Apprenticeship/RATs LibGuide that Debbie created http://libguides.rtc.edu/rats has gained national attention as other colleges borrow from her work.

Jenna Pollock was instrumental in helping the Pack move ahead with their creative ideas as she helped negotiate getting in to more classrooms, presenting training, and encouraging faculty to use Reading Apprenticeship. Jenna has served as a creative contributor, writer, confidante, and RA presenter at local and national conferences, and sounding board for ideas for institutionalizing Reading Apprenticeship.

And Many Thanks to...

A few additional words of thanks go to members of the RTC Administration Team and the ATD Core Team for allowing the Pack to take the concept of Reading Apprenticeship and make it “RTC” specific. Without the ongoing support of the research department Chris Johnson and Patricia Chakravarty, our classroom data would not be compiled and articulated in a cogent manner. Furthermore, this data serves as one of the many reasons we gained Leader College status. We love our DATA people!

Fast Facts about RA at RTC:

- Michele Lesmeister has trained 97 educators from the U.S. online in RA Online for Community Colleges.
- 125 RTC faculty members have received at least two hours of RA training.
- RTC Library added over 90 items about RA and reading to its collection that are available for checkout.
- In the first five months in 2012, there have been over 2,060 pages viewed of the RA/RATs LibGuide.
- RA was one of the main reasons RTC was named an “Achieving the Dream” Leader College in 2011.

Finding the Resources that the RAT Pack Created

- The RTC Library’s RA/RATs LibGuide will remain available indefinitely at http://libguides.rtc.edu/rats.
- The RATs website http://www.rtc-rats.org and its online files will available at least until 09/01/2013.
- Info about WestEd’s online RA course is available at http://www.wested.org/cs/ra/view/serv/158
- Feel free to email Michele Lesmeister (mlesmeister@rtc.edu) with questions about RA.