RATs Ramp-Up

Rev-up the RAT-Mobile as the RAT Pack is ramping up RA and RATs activities at RTC starting Fall Quarter!

The Pack (Michele Lesmeister, Debbie Crumb and Jenna Pollock) have already begun planning for additional RATs activities to help instructors improve student reading skills and comprehension using WestEd’s Reading Apprenticeship (RA) routines embedded in their curriculum.

Using special grant funds, RTC will be sending four faculty members to WestEd’s three-day Community College Seminar in Reading Apprenticeship on August 3–5 in Santa Ana, CA. Attendees will learn more about the RA instructional framework, how to engage their students in a metacognitive conversation about their reading processes, and how to apprentice their students in routines that will help improve their reading skills and comprehension.

The four faculty members selected to attend the RA Seminar are:

- **Mike Biell**
  (Engineering Design Technology)

- **Glenda Hanson**
  (Legal Assistant/Legal Secretary)

- **Pam Williams-Butterfield**
  (Certified Nursing Assistant)

  The newly trained faculty will work with Michele Lesmeister to gather RA-related data in their classrooms and help the RAT Pack with RATs activities on campus. New tools are being developed to assist in the gathering of classroom data. The new RATs will have support and assistance from the RAT Pack as they hone their RA routines and share in their harvest of new insights.

The RAT Pack is planning to conduct more RA trainings this coming school year. The Faculty In-Service on Tuesday September 15 will feature three RATs workshops:

- **Helping Your Students Read Their Textbooks**
- **How to Start Using RA Routines in Your Classroom**
- **Fluency and Word Clues in Reading for Understanding.**

Starting in October, the Pack will be conducting monthly RATs workshops that are open to any RTC faculty or staff member. Check out the RATs Calendar on the back side of this newsletter for workshop dates and mark them on your calendar now.
You Asked for It!

Thanks to you RATs who took the time to complete and return the RATs Activities survey in June. Based on the survey results, the top workshop topics that RATsters are interested in are:

**Metacognitive Conversations** (discussion that help the reader engage in the text)

**Inquiry** (learning to use questioning techniques to improve comprehension)

**Word Fluency** (Using word clues and context to help improve reading skills)

**Outlining** (a tool to help students tackle difficult texts)

**Reading Strategy Lists** (lists that remind readers of specific strategies to use with different types of texts)

**Talking to the Text** (silent reading and annotation followed by discussion and sharing)

**Think Alouds** (reading and talking your way through the text as you try to comprehend it).

The RAT Pack will be planning and conducting workshops on these topics this coming school year. Thanks again for the input!

RTC Library’s Item of Month

The RTC Library has materials to support and help improve student reading and comprehension skills. For more info, contact the Library at 235-2331 or via email at librarian@RTC.edu.


RTC Library Call Number: 428.007 ROBB-L 2003

Website of the Month

Nancy Ybarra’s Glimpse into a Reading Apprenticeship Classroom

http://tinyurl.com/mx6gt5

RATs Calendar

**Aug. 3 — 5:** Four RTC faculty will be attending WestEd’s Community College Seminar in Reading Apprenticeship training in Santa Ana, CA.

**Tues. Sept. 15, RTC Faculty In-Service:** The RAT Pack will be conducting several workshops during the day.

**Tues. Oct. 13, 2:45—3:45 PM in the Library Classroom C-204:** RATs Workshop on *Using Double and Triple Entry Logs* with Jenna Pollock.

**Tues. Nov. 17, 2:45—3:45 PM in the Library Classroom C-204:** RATs Workshop on *RA Routines for Busy Faculty* with Michele Lesmeister.

**Tues. Dec. 8, 2:45—3:45 PM in the Library Classroom C-204:** RATs Workshop with Debbie Crumb with topic to be announced later.

Join the RATs!

**RATs** (Reading Apprenticeship Teachers and supporters) is the RTC support group for those who want to use WestEd’s Reading Apprenticeship® (RA) to help engage students in a metacognitive conversation about their reading habits. Become a RAT and learn how to help improve your students’ reading skills and comprehension.

The **RAT Pack** is the training and planning leadership team to help get you started. Contact one of them today for more info about RA or RATs:

- Debbie Crumb
- Jenna Pollock
- Michele Lesmeister, Team Leader

For more info about RA at RTC, scurry over to our RATs website and blog!

http://rtc-rats.org/