

RMCC Smoke Free Campus Policy Effective Immediately

Rich Mountain Community College's Student Government Association (SGA) is launching a campaign to help usher in the upcoming Arkansas Clean Air on Campus Act of 2009. In addition to distributing information about the Clean Air on Campus Act, SGA will distribute information about the benefits of stopping smoking as well as tips for kicking the habit.

Beginning immediately, smoking is not allowed on RMCC's campus or any of its outreach locations. This is all property, including buildings and grounds, owned or operated by the College.

Phillip Wilson, VP for Student Affairs stated, "RMCC has always been concerned with the health of its students. While the Arkansas Clean Air on Campus Act of 2009 does not go into law until August 1, 2010, the administration of the College felt that it was in the best health interests of all parties involved to begin a policy implementation of the law effective January 1, 2010. By implementing this policy now, we believe that we will be able to alleviate some of the challenges with not being able to smoke on a State supported campus. We plan on using the first seven months of this year as the 'adjustment' period. We will be using campus signage and posters as a means to reminding everyone of the new law."

When the law is official in August, any person who violates any provision will be deemed guilty of a violation and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 and no more than \$500.

During January the SGA will distribute stop smoking information across the Mena campus as well as at the Mt. Ida and Waldron sites. For more information regarding the Clean Air on Campus Act go to <http://www.rmcc.edu/articles/91/hb2007.pdf>.