

Rich Mountain Community College

The Mountain Climber

February 2010

Serving the Citizens of the Ouachita Mountains Region since 1983

RMCC Begins Major Campaign to Provide Aviation Maintenance Training Scholarships



RMCC has announced a unique, limited opportunity for persons considering a career in aviation maintenance. This spring an Aviation Technician Orientation Program (ATOP) will begin and 15 scholarships will be presented to the selected students to pay for the course work for aviation maintenance certificates of proficiency, provided they maintain requirements of the scholarship. The certificate of proficiency in Aviation I and II will lead to a technical certificate in aviation maintenance. Additional training for the technical certificate will include supervisor training as well as several other courses.

Application packets will become available by March 1 with a deadline to apply of March 19. The week of March 29 to April 2 an orientation course will be offered during the evenings with the 15 scholarship recipients being selected from those participating in the orientation course. The scholarships will be announced April 5.

On April 12 the scholarship recipients will begin course work for the Aviation Maintenance I Certificate of Proficiency. This certificate is made up of seven credit hours encompassing four classes. The courses include Introduction to Aviation Math and Physics, Introduction to Hand tools and Measuring Devices, Introduction to Aircraft Drawings, and Introduction to Aircraft Hardware. All classes are hands-on training taught at the Mena Airport and scheduled to be offered in the evenings which will allow students to work during the day if employed. It was noted that high school seniors could potentially be participants because the class schedule would allow them to attend high school during the day and would actually only overlap with their high school calendar for about a month.

Aviation II can be added to the Aviation I Certificate of Proficiency and is also a seven credit hour program. Courses include Introduction to Aircraft Servicing and Safety, Introduction to Materials, Processes, and Projects, and Introduction to Basic Electrical Systems.

RMCC is a member of Arkansas Aerospace Training Consortium. According to Dr. Steve Rook, RMCC VP for Academic Affairs, "We want to take full advantage of the Department of Labor, Community Based Job Training Grant through the consortium to provide valuable career training for our service area." Dr. Wayne Hatcher, RMCC President added, "Jobs in the aviation field are very good paying positions and can be found locally as well as many other parts of the state and nation. In addition, the skill sets learned in the training can be used in crossover areas such as machining, autos, boats, cycles, etc."

Complete details are available at RMCC's admissions office or at the RMCC Aviation Training Facility located at the Mena Airport. Lee Chapman is RMCC's aviation maintenance instructor. Call 479-394-7622 or 479-394-1660 for complete details.



RMCC Foundation

RMCC Foundation Continues Growth Thanks to Generosity of Groups and Individuals

The **Mena High School Forty Year Club** contributed \$15,000 to RMCC's Foundation. The Forty Year Club originally established two scholarships through the



Foundation with a gift of \$50,000 in 2005. They are now working on funding a third scholarship with all their scholarships designated for Mena High School graduates attending RMCC.

Pictured are Dr. Wayne Hatcher; Brenda Smith, Forty Year Club Scholarship Committee Treasurer; and Jaclyn Keeter. The scholarships are awarded through the RMCC scholarship committee.

Beta Sigma Phi -Beta Alpha Chapter

contributed \$500 to the Student Assistance Fund of the RMCC Foundation.



Members of the chapter donate locally to various organizations and recently made the decision to help RMCC's Foundation in its ongoing efforts on behalf of the College.

Pictured are Gretchen Cannon, Mandy Godfrey, Stacy Voisin, Dr. Wayne Hatcher - RMCC President, Wendy McDaniel, Telissa Montgomery, Christy Plunkett, and Jaclyn Keeter - RMCC Director of Development.

Save the Date! RMCC Foundation Gala—May 1, 2010 CMA Iron Mountain Facility

A recent conference trip made it possible for Dr. Hatcher, RMCC President, and Jaclyn Keeter, RMCC Director of Development, to spend time with **Dr. William Frederick and his wife, Dr. Mildred Myers.** Dr. Frederick has provided the College with an endowment in honor of his brother, Dr. Duke Frederick. One of the focuses of the



Frederick Endowment support is the annual Duke Frederick lecture series at RMCC.

Pictured are Dr. Frederick, Dr. Myers, Keeter, and Dr. Hatcher.

Emerson Motor Technologies

recently contributed \$3000 toward their endowment fund with the RMCC Foundation. The gift is toward a second scholarship for the U.S. Electrical Motors Endowed Grant.



The endowed grant provides students who are children or grandchildren of U.S. Motors employees with financial assistance if attending RMCC.

Pictured are Dr. Wayne Hatcher, Chris Irons with Emerson, and Jaclyn Keeter.

RMCC's New Radio Tower



RMCC's Radio Station has a new location (88.9 FM) and a new tower, making the station five times more powerful than before. According to Dr. Rudi Timmerman, Director of RMCC TV and Radio, the project to put up a new tower has been in the works for over two years and was made possible through a variety of funding sources.

RMCC's Foundation, Mena Regional Health System, Max Pearson, and the Spears Grant all contributed to the project. In addition, RMCC Radio and TV students have been making videos to sell

and producing advertisements to raise revenue to assist with funding the new tower.

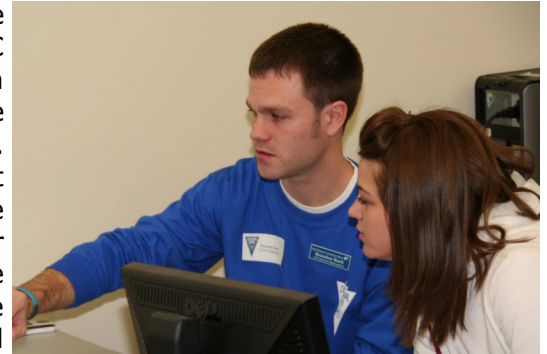
A much smaller tower located on campus was blown down during the tornado and a separate tower feeding RMCC Radio was located at an off campus site. Now the 199 foot tower is located on the Mena Campus and has lights on top to make it visible to incoming aircraft to the area. According to Timmerman, the station signal can now be picked up as far as Wickes whereas before it only reached to Hatfield south of Mena.

The 500 watt station is not only more powerful, but brings the station some options for future consideration that were unavailable before. Timmerman encourages the community to listen to 88.9 FM for community and RMCC news.

RMCC Happenings

College Goal Sunday Successful at RMCC

Over 110 people attended the RMCC College Goal Sunday on February 21 at the RMCC Mena campus. RMCC served as a host site for the statewide event set up to offer financial aid assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). College Goal Sunday was the finale to Say Go College week across Arkansas.



According to Mary Standerfer, RMCC Financial Aid Director, 58 students filed FAFSA applications on Sunday at RMCC and nine others received help but needed additional information to be able to file. Standerfer added, "We were pleased with the turnout, especially considering the weather on Sunday afternoon. We had 26 volunteers helping and therefore students' wait for assistance was minimal if at all. We were also able to assist students with the new state scholarship form online while they were at RMCC on Sunday. I want to remind students and their families to contact the College for any help with admissions, scholarships, or financial aid."

RMCC LPN students assist with SGA Health Week



RMCC's LPN students recently assisted with Student Government Association's (SGA) Health Week by taking blood pressure, heart rate, oxygen levels, and glucose levels at the College's Mena campus.



Dr. Wayne Hatcher

If you think we are talking a lot about aviation lately, we are because we have good reason to continue the discussion. Aviation is a job market in our own back yard and RMCC has the training to prepare you for the jobs here and elsewhere.

Of the students successfully completing a brief orientation program, we will offer 15 scholarships to make it possible for at least this many students to receive training beginning this spring. Aviation jobs are good paying and can be found locally as well as in the state and in the nation. I am expecting approximately 20 students for the mid-spring enrollment, so the odds of getting one of these scholarships is in your favor. These students can keep their scholarship throughout the program by maintaining a few reasonable requirements.

RMCC is proud to be working toward increasing our programs in order to put people to work in the region. We see it as part of our job. With our LPN program we provide 20 to 30 new nurses for the medical field on a yearly basis. Our machine tool program generates machinists for the local manufacturing industries, our computer department trains students in a variety of career opportunities, as does our radio/tv department.

Aviation has been on our radar and we have been able to do some course work over the past several years to promote the job opportunities at our local airport. Now with our grant from the Department of Labor and our partnership in the Arkansas Aerospace Training Consortium we are taking aviation maintenance training to a whole new level. As you will note from the cover story of this newsletter and stated above (yes I want to make sure the word is out!), we are planning to scholarship 15 students through our Certificate of Proficiency in Aviation I and Aviation II beginning this spring. These courses will be offered at night so students who are employed or even high school seniors can work toward the certification and then be fully prepared to enter the aviation career field. By attending classes at the airport several employers will have the opportunity to drop in and watch you work—and some may even be assisting with instruction.

It won't be that long before the economy makes a positive upturn and cause our local airport to need many more workers trained in the various skills involved in this program. Help us get the word out that those prepared for - and not if but when the jobs become available - will reap the benefits. Train today in order to be ready for tomorrow. We are excited about this opportunity and hope you are too. If you know anyone who might be interested in this unique opportunity send them our way.

Brooke Thompson RMCC Student Support Services Student of the Month

Brooke Thompson of Waldron is RMCC's Student Support Service (SSS) Student of the Month for February. Thompson began taking classes at RMCC during her senior year at Waldron High and became a full time college student in the fall of 2008.

She plans to transfer to UA Fort Smith upon graduation from RMCC and pursue a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education. Thompson stated, "I would genuinely like to express my thanks to SSS for making my two years at RMCC a very smooth process, and for helping me make the transition from RMCC to UAFS simpler by taking me on transfer trips."

The Student Support Services program at RMCC is funded in total (100%) by federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education, with an annual budget of \$318,829. For questions and other information, please contact Lisa Rackley, Director of SSS at 479-394-7622, extension 1624.



Brooke Thompson