

## GRCC Student Wins Community Scholarship

Rodney Cobbins is the winner of the 2011 Legacy Ball College Student Scholarship. This scholarship, sponsored by Jessica Ann Tyson of Events by Jessica Ann, is part of a local celebration of African American success in Grand Rapids.

The Legacy Ball, held on February 25 at the JW Marriott, honored outstanding members of the Grand Rapids African American legal community. To help encourage young people to push forward with their own education and career goals, scholarships were awarded to one high school and one college student.

Rodney is an education major at GRCC and also volunteers with Grand Rapids Public Schools as a basketball coach for 3rd through 6th grade boys. When asked about how he felt about winning this award, Cobbins said:

"When I won the Legacy Ball award, I felt understood. I felt worthy and deserving of the opportunity to help teach our youth and reach into the future generations in



order to make them better. I will take the inspiration I get from being chosen as the winner to keep going back into at-risk, low-income, even socially violent situations to save the children. Someone has to be willing to man the frontlines, to go into those forgotten places, and reach back to help a child out of a captive state."

"By winning this award, I know that I had people who believed that I had earned and deserved my frontline post. We may want to do work that is good, but we must also be

qualified and deserving of the position, too."

The Teacher Education Department of Grand Rapids Community College congratulates Rodney and wishes him much success in his chosen career as an educator for our youth.

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## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs (NACCTEP) announces its 2011-2012 scholarship program guidelines. The mission of NACCTEP is to promote the community college role in the recruitment, preparation, retention, and renewal of diverse early childhood and K-12 teachers, and to advance quality teacher education programs in the community colleges.

### DESCRIPTION OF AWARD

- The purpose of the NACCTEP National Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance to students (undergraduate and alternative certification/post-baccalaureate) at NACCTEP member colleges who are studying to become teachers.
- Awards are for a total of \$1,000.
- Scholarship awards will be made available through college financial aid offices.
- An individual may receive a NACCTEP scholarship only once.
- Award recipients who withdraw from their member college or do not maintain the amount of credits will forfeit their scholarship.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The applicant must:

- currently attend a NACCTEP member college. Please refer to [www.nacctep.org](http://www.nacctep.org) for a list of member institutions or contact NACCTEP at 480-731-8760;
- be a U.S. citizen or eligible U.S. permanent resident;
- be in good academic standing, with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale);
- be enrolled in and maintain a minimum of six credit hours at a NACCTEP member college during the Fall 2011 semester;
- be enrolled in and maintain a minimum of six credit hours at a NACCTEP member college or transfer to an education program at a four-year institution during the spring 2012 semester; and
- have earned a minimum of 18 college credit hours by the end of the spring 2011 semester.

If you meet these criteria and are interested, contact Carole Redwine, Education Support Services, 301 Main, (616) 234-4664, for more information. Deadline for applications to be submitted is April 22.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS *Fighting Childhood Hunger*

As part of our "hot topics" seminar series, Christine Lentine of the Kids Food Basket spoke to about thirty students at the ATC auditorium on "Hunger in our Classrooms". Hungry children are distracted children and their learning is adversely affected. Because of that, there is an increasing need for food for evening sack suppers that are sent home with children in our area school districts.

Poverty affects more and more families and many children do not get much to eat after they get home from school. The Kids Food Basket program provides a healthy supper that they can take with them.

We were so moved by Christine's presentation that the Teacher Education Department sponsored a food drive for the month of March. Hopefully, the food



that was collected helped the Kids Food Basket to continue to meet the needs of hungry children in the Grand Rapids area. To those of you who contributed, thank you so much.

Christine indicated that there were ample opportunities for volunteering. If you wish to be a volunteer at Kids Food Basket, please see Carole Redwine for more information.

## *Giving the Homeless a Hand*

Most of us take our homes for granted. At the end of the day, it is a place of rest and refuge, a hot shower, a meal, and a warm bed. But there are those who cannot take home for granted because they don't have one; they are homeless.

For teachers, the homeless child is more of a reality than we might think. In 1987, Congress passed the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, providing the homeless with emergency food services, adult literacy programs, access to schooling, job training and other assistance. The act has been amended to facilitate the public education of homeless children. (Teachers, Schools, and Society, 9th Ed., page 136)

On March 3, Vanessa Daniels of Mel Trotter Ministries spoke to Carole

Redwine's ED 200 class as part of their unit discussion on poverty. Students were surprised to find out the extent to which Mel Trotter accommodates its mothers and children so that there are quiet places to study, as well as computer access. Transitional housing plans will provide a feeling of normalcy so that families can focus on healing and learning.

The diversity in our classrooms reaches across many categories, but we must not forget that socio-economic diversity presents its own set of challenges that require us to provide an extra measure of compassion and effort. Christine and Vanessa shared their stories to remind us that there are more stories to be told.

## Two NEW Courses for Education Majors

Looking for a course for the fall semester? Want something relevant to sink your teeth into and connect to your teacher education courses?

Then consider EN 293, "The Rhetoric of Poverty." It is being offered this summer, from 2:30-4:30 on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (June 21-August 4). In the fall, it is offered August 31-December 14, from 6:15-9:15 p.m. as a hybrid course.

This seminar is designed for students looking to:

- create civically engaged writing
- explore literature and composition that asks you to think reflectively, critically, creatively, and collaboratively
- synthesize ideas to make innovative connections on local, national, and global levels
- "write" the world by composing various public and private communications
- experience an Academic Service Learning course

For more information, contact Mursalata Muhammad at 234-4950.

A second EN 293 seminar is titled "Writing and Leadership." This is a three-credit hybrid course taught by Kelli Roblin and Joan Gearns, which meets on Tuesdays from 4:00 to 5:30, and has discussions via Blackboard.

For two hours a week, you will tutor fellow GRCC students in the Writing Center. During the semester, you will

work on developing your writing skills which will include projects such as journaling about tutoring experiences, writing four one-page reflective papers and a tutoring philosophy statement, and giving a group presentation concerning a grammar or mechanical usage rule.

We encourage you to first sign up and join the GRCC Honors Program. To do this, you must have taken at least 12 credits at GRCC and have a 3.3.GPA. Go to GRCC's website and fill out an Honors application. You can then register for the class. If at this time you do not have the credit hours or GPA necessary to join the Honors Program, no worries. You may still register for the class with our permission. Just let us know you are interested in the course, and we will make necessary arrangements for class registration.



This class is evidence of excellence in academics and leadership for your resume or transcript. It is also information to impress future employers or universities. For more information, contact Joan Gearns at (616) 234-4374 or Kelli Roblin at (616) 234-4388.

## Wrapping Up 2011: It's Been a Very Good Year

Well, the semester is almost finished, spring has arrived (at least according to the calendar), and finals are just around the corner. We hope that you have had a successful academic year and that you still feel that the teaching profession is for you. We are glad you spent this year with us, and for those of you not transferring, we look forward to seeing you in the fall. If you are transferring, we wish you the best of luck at the university of your choice. You've had a great beginning here at Grand Rapids Community College and we know that you will represent us well. Enjoy your summer break and we look forward to your return in the fall, hoping you'll be refreshed and ready for another exciting year of teacher education.

Before you go, however, we'd like to leave you with these inspiring words, shared with us by a colleague here at the college who received it as an email.

### "What Teachers Make"

The dinner guests were sitting around

the table, discussing life. One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?" He reminded the other dinner guests what they say about teachers: "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach." To stress his point, he said to another guest, "You're a teacher, Bonnie. Be honest. What do you make?"

Bonnie, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness replied, "You want to know what I make?" She paused for a second, and then began...

"Well, I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I make a C+ feel like the Congressional Medal of Honor. I make kids sit through forty minutes of class time when their parents can't make them sit for five without an iPod, Game Cube, or movie rental."

"You want to know what I make?" She paused again and looked at each and every person at the table.

"I make kids wonder. I make them

question. I make them criticize. I make them apologize and mean it. I make them have respect and take responsibility for their actions. I teach them to write and then I make them write. I make them read, read, read. I make them show all their work in math. I make my students from other countries learn everything they need to know in English while preserving their unique cultural identity. I make my classroom a place where all my students feel safe. I make my students stand to say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag because we live in the United States of America. Finally, I make them understand that if they use the gifts they were given, work hard, and follow their hearts, they can succeed in life."

Bonnie paused one last time and then continued.

"Then, when people try to judge me by what I make, I can hold my head up high and pay no attention because they are ignorant. You want to know what I make? I MAKE A DIFFERENCE. What do YOU make?"



### teacher EDUCATION

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