



Remodeled Interior Design Area Ribbon-Cutting Held

The newly remodeled Interior Design program area was unveiled during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held on February 12.

The Interior Design program has been in its current location for 27 years and was in desperate need of an updated look. However, despite the need for remodeling, the program has been thriving.

The remodeling was accomplished with the help of donations and discounted purchases from the interior design industry, as well as the efforts of many DCTC staff members. Faculty donated time to plan space remodeling, architectural finishes, carpet inlays, and kitchen cabinets; the Wood Finishing Technology program refinished furniture for the area; and other staff members contributed their skills, including painting, carpentry work, electrical work, and ceiling work, to keep the costs down. Even students became involved by repainting existing cabinets.

"I appreciate all of the efforts that industry, students, alumni, faculty, and staff have contributed to make this remodeling possible," said President Ronald Thomas. "We have a beautiful updated area for a limited budget."

The department's new look includes a large entrance, sculptured carpeting, new light fixtures, new and refinished furniture, and a new ceiling.

The college is hoping to remodel more of the Interior Design program area in the next few years. Anyone interested in donating to the program's future remodeling should call the DCTC Foundation at 651-423-8494.



President Ronald E. Thomas cuts the ribbon with the assistance of Interior Design instructors Margaret Krohn, Suzanne Starks, and Karen Doyle, Dean Jan Wilson, and Interior Design instructors Jean Roberts and Katharine Huus.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|----------|
| <i>Alumni Story</i> | 2 |
| <i>Minnesota Workforce Training at DCTC</i> | |
| 2 | |
| <i>DCTC Highlights</i> | 3 |
| <i>DCTC Receives MJSP Grant</i> | |

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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| *March 12-16 | Spring Break |
| *March 17 | St. Patrick's Day |
| *April 13 | Good Friday Holiday |
| *April 16 | No classes |
| *April 26 | College Information Night |
| *May 16 | Graduation |

The DCTC Dispatch is a publication of the Dakota County Technical College President's Office. Please submit articles or suggestions to Kim Gelhar, Editor.

Wood Finishing Program Graduate Keeps Nation's Capitol Buildings Looking Great by Carie Statz

After spending years selling high-end furniture, Tredway Childress decided he needed a change. Instead of selling furniture, he wanted to work to restore it. Little did he know that this change would lead him to an exciting profession restoring woodwork for the federal government in the House of Administration and the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.

When Childress decided to quit selling furniture out east, he began looking for a wood finishing program for training. He found that there are few wood finishing programs in the nation that provided the training he was seeking.



Tredway Childress



Woodwork in the House of Administration

"I had taken short courses on wood finishing, but there is so much to know. I wasn't getting the knowledge I needed to start a profession in the field," said Childress. "That's when I found out about Dakota County Technical College's Wood Finishing program. It is such a unique program. I knew that's where I needed to go."

DCTC's Wood Finishing Program is the only one of its kind in the nation. It blends the past, present, and future by providing specialized skills in restoring past woods with today's new materials and techniques. According to Mitch Kohanek, DCTC's Wood Finishing instructor, all furniture is unique so each piece has its own restoration problems. Childress says this statement has stuck with him in his new profession, especially in working with federal buildings woodwork.

After graduating from the Wood Finishing program in 1998, Childress got the call that would change his profession forever. "I got a call from Mitch (the wood finishing instructor). He said the Capitol called him looking for a wood finisher," said Childress. "I went on an interview, then I had to wait about one year before all the background checks were completed. I got the job."

Minnesota Workforce Training Sizzles at DCTC by Gary Hebert, Customized Training Manager

Customized Training provides employers with the rapid response necessary to train current employees on new technologies, accelerate the learning process for new employees, and develop situation-specific tools and resources which support the learning process. Customized Training has worked with more than 10,000 students each year in developing highly skilled employees who are capable of using the latest technologies that are essential to corporate growth and profitability. Long-term training relationships with measured accountability have been developed with many Minnesota businesses, such as AT&T Broadband, 3M, Northwest Airlines, Compuware, Frontier Communications, DART, Seagate Technology, and Cargill.

The IT/Computers team has focused on building and maintaining a skilled workforce that meets the needs of Minnesota's information technology and computer networking industries. Our IT/Computer offerings mirror the technological needs of the industry and are essential to their success. They provide employers with a rapid response training capability that allows companies to respond to the latest market demands. The long list of satisfied clients speaks to the quality and relevance of our curricula. Incumbent workers at more than 100 companies have upgraded their skills through Microsoft and Cisco certification training, Visual Basic, Java, and XML programming.

DCTC Highlights

- u Articulation agreements were solidified between Metro State University and DCTC on November 15 for Travel and Tourism Management, Advertising and Applied Visual Management, Food Service Management, Sales Management, and Property Management.
- u DCTC was approved for a state health promotion grant to provide stress management activities and CRP and AED training for employees. Thanks to Sandy Loney, Health Coordinator, for securing this grant!
- u DCTC's new electronic sign is up and running!
- u On December 6, forty-four students were recognized for their achievements and inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Thirteen staff/faculty members received "Golden Apple Awards" for their contribution to the success of one or more of the students. Congratulations to Bara Arens, Joel Bisser, Diane Dau, Karen Doyle, Cheryl Fields, Kathy Huus, Susan Johanson, Doris Loes, Lynda McPherson, Elizabeth Mische, Jean Roberts, Suzanne Starks, and Diana Sullivan.
- u The Architectural Technology program has been provided with a \$108,500 grant of thinkdesign 3-D software as part of the think3's thinkstart educational grant program. The software package arrived ready to load and licensed for 25 systems in the Architectural Technology lab. Congratulations to Beverly Claybrook, who secured this grant.
- u DCTC was awarded \$250,000 from 3M to expand career awareness in the machine tool industry field.
- u Connie Garrahy, Director of Business Affairs, has been selected to receive MnSCU's 2000 Outstanding Award for her leadership in achieving excellence in financial management.
- u On January 25, three "All-Star" awards were presented. Darrell Tangen, Photography Technology instructor, received an award for all his work on the new DCTC web site, and Christa Mortland and Theresa Wagner, maintenance staff, received awards for the way that they go "above and beyond" in the service that they provide to this college.
- u DCTC has been invited to give two presentations at the American Association of Community Colleges' Conference in Chicago. This is a wonderful honor for our college due to the competitive process for the presentations.
- u A monthly "Visiting Professor" series has been started at DCTC. Our first visiting professor was David Anderson, Founder of *Famous Dave's*. He spoke to approximately 100 people on October 26 and received a standing ovation following his presentation. Other visiting professors have included Larry Groehler from COVAD, DCTC Interior Design program instructor Katharine Huus, and Gary Olson from Unisys. For information on upcoming speakers, please contact Sandy Loney at 651-423-8249.

MJSP Grant to Deliver Soft Skills Training

DCTC has received a \$275,000 Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership (MJSP) grant to provide Advanced Soft Skills Integrated Training (ASSIST) to key employees at Koch Petroleum in Rosemount. Approximately 650 workers will benefit from the partnership over the next two years. DCTC will work closely with Koch's training and management staff to develop the training program. A unique part of the training will be the use of mentors from outside the company, who will help ensure that the training is effective and that individuals are using their new skills. This long-term partnership will help establish a base of knowledge at DCTC for use with other regulated businesses and industries.



Participating in the grant signing are (front) Richard Tvedten, Director, CT/CE MnSCU; Will Branning, Dakota County Commissioner; Jeff Wilkes, Koch Petroleum Vice President of Minnesota Manufacturing; Roger Hughes, Executive Director of Minnesota Job Skills Partnership; DCTC President Ronald E. Thomas; (back) Scott Gunderson and Larry Raddatz, DCTC Training Coordinators; Sharon LaComb, DCTC Customized Training Vice President, Rob Chvatal, Koch Petroleum Manager; and Pat McQuillan, DCTC Training Coordinator.



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Out like a lamb?

DCTC Names Outstanding Faculty and Staff

At an informal reception held on February 26, 2001, President Ronald Thomas presented "Outstanding Service" Awards to six college staff members who demonstrated exceptional service during the past year. This year's award recipients were Laura Shonka, Payroll Technician; Linda Foster, Instructional Technology Specialist; Nancy White, Employment and Training Center Employment Counselor; Bradd Strelow, Customized Training Coordinator; Pat Lair, Admissions Coordinator; and Mark Ramseth, Carpenter.

Also announced at the reception were this year's DCTC Outstanding Faculty. Faculty members are nominated for this award by students and selected by an interview panel. Susan Johanson, an Office Careers program instructor since 1990, and William Cody, a Machine



President Ronald E. Thomas with Outstanding Faculty award recipients Susan Johanson and Bill Cody.

Tool Careers program instructor since 1998, were this year's award recipients and will be recognized at a national conference at the University of Texas in May.



President Ronald E. Thomas with Outstanding Service award recipients Bradd Strelow, Pat Lair, Laura Shonka, Mark Ramseth, Linda Foster, and Nancy White.

Congratulations to all of our outstanding employees!