

# RTC Faculty Focus

## September 2009 (Vol. 8, No. 2)

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Renton Technical College

### Welcome Back!

Welcome back Faculty! Hope you had a restful and relaxing Summer Break. It's pretty quiet around campus without you and the students running around. We've missed you!

### Don't Forget Sept. 17 is Constitution Day



Federal law **requires** that RTC provide some type of Constitution-related activity or educational programming on the history of the American Constitution **on or around September 17**. Please refer to the August issue of *Faculty Focus* for more info and helpful Constitution Day resources. You can find the issue by going to the Library's website <http://www.rtc.edu/library>, clicking on **Services and Information**, then on **Library Publications**, then on **Recent issues published by RTC Library**, and finally on the desired format (**PDF** or **Word**) for August.

### Web Resources to Help Start the Year

Another school year begins – a year of adventures, challenges and successes. Below are some web resources from Librarian **Laura Staley** to help you start the year off right.

- ★ Back to School Teacher Tips from the American Federation of Teachers. <http://www.aft.org/pubs-reports/downloads/teachers/tchrtips.pdf>
- ★ Planning for next year – during the summer! Tips for making these days of summer really count for next year. <http://www.edutopia.org/lesson-planning-fun>
- ★ Help in setting measureable, achievable goals. <http://www.topachievement.com/smart.html>



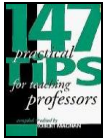
### Discover *DiscoverEd*



Search a database of other instructors' worksheets and lessons and freely modify them for your own classes with *DiscoverEd*, at <http://discovered.creativecommons.org>. This beta version database lists only resources that have Creative Commons or other "open" licenses, so you don't owe copyright fees. *Teachnology* also has many useful, free worksheets at <http://www.teach-nology.com/worksheets/>. (submitted by **Laura Staley**)

## RTC Library Materials Start the Year Right

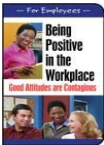
The RTC Library has books, videos and DVDs that you can use to help start the school year out right. Here are a few of the many materials available as selected by Library Director **Eric Palo** and Media Librarian **Laura Staley**.



**147 Practical Tips for Teaching Professors.** This book includes instructions for playing “Meet Your Teacher” – a great way to interact with the syllabus. **Book Stacks 378.125 MAGNAN 1990**



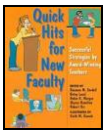
**Arizona Idol.** This lively and entertaining video helps introduce the topic of your expectations of student behavior in the classroom. The game show format allows your students to vote on the most disruptive classroom behaviors. Call number: **Media 378.195 ARIZONA 2003i**



**Being Positive in the Workplace.** The classroom is a workplace too. This video looks at the steps for creating and maintaining a positive attitude in the workplace. Ask your students how they can apply these lessons in the classroom. **Media 658.314 BEING 2004p**



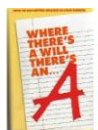
**McKeachie's Teaching Tips: Strategies, Research, and Theory for College and University Teachers.** Take a look at this book's Chapter 2 on “Countdown for Course Preparation” and Chapter 3 on “Meeting a Class for the First Time”. **Book Stacks 378.125 MCKEAC 2006**



**Quick Hits for New Faculty: Successful Strategies by Award Winning Teachers.** This book contains sections on getting started and the first day. **Book Stacks 378.12 QUICK 2004h**



**Successful Beginnings for College Teaching: Engaging Your Students from the First Day.** This book contains info about successful beginnings, first-day classroom activities and icebreakers and creating a welcoming classroom environment. **Book Stacks 378.125 PROVITE 2001**



**Where There's a Will, There's an A.** Set of six videos that provide students with information on how to succeed in college by learning more in less time. Tips range from knowing where to sit in class to how to study for tests. **Media 371.30281 WHERE 2002t**

## We Need Your Contributions and Suggestions!

Please let us know about things you are doing in your classroom that are working well so we can pass them along to your colleagues. In the next few months we plan to feature information about tips for **understanding and working with students, learning styles, motivating your students** and **ways to facilitate student learning**. Please contact *Faculty Focus* newsletter editor, [Debbie Crumb](#), with your tips, great websites and suggestions.



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