

RTC Faculty Focus

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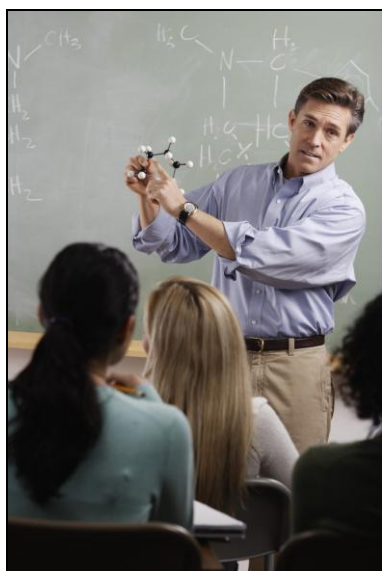


Renton Technical College

Teaching Tips

It takes patience, dedication, years of practice and making lots of mistakes to become a great teacher. Sometimes newer instructors expect to become master teachers right away. RTC accounting instructor **Martha Chamberlin** had this sage advice for newer instructors: “Don’t worry too much – it takes time. You won’t be good right off, relax and learn the job.”

Media Librarian **Laura Staley** had these suggestions for some great websites with teaching tips:



Teaching Tips from Experienced Teachers. An excellent list of research-backed teaching tips. My favorite tip talks about “the curse of knowledge”: “(S)peakers readily overestimate their effectiveness in communicating meaning....Whatever can be misunderstood will be. Once we know something, it becomes difficult to appreciate what it's like not to know. But we can, by restraining our assumptions, better enable students to cross the bridge from ignorance to knowledge.”

<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/observer/getArticle.cfm?id=1745>

Promoting Learning: Use the Language You Want Learned. This is just one teaching tip, but it’s a good one. At the beginning of a course, most instructors cover “the rules”. Dr. Marvin Marshall suggests reframing this session from rules to responsibilities. He points out that we try to teach our students to be responsible; we should present our expectations that way.

<http://teachers.net/gazette/AUG02/marshall.html>

Instructional Librarian **Debbie Crumb** recommends Colorado State University’s *Master Teacher Initiative Teaching Tips* website found at <http://tilt.colostate.edu/tips/>

UDL Strategies for Developmental Math Classrooms

Starting this September, RTC will be participating in a state-wide Faculty Learning Community grant project that will research Universal Design for Learning (UDL) strategies for use in developmental math classrooms. RTC’s UDL Project Coordinator **Cathy Jenner** and Early Childhood Education instructor **Ardene Niemer** are involved in the project and will be asking RTC’s math instructors and/or other instructors interested in UDL to help them. For more info about the project as it progresses, email Cathy or Ardene or visit RTC’s UDL website at <http://webs.rtc.edu/UDL>



RTC Library Materials on Teaching Tips

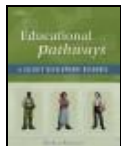
Call the RTC Library at ext. 2331 or visit <http://rtc.edu/library> for more info about materials on this topic.



Getting Results: a Professional Development Course for Community College Educators. Produced by WGBH Educational Foundation and the League of Innovation in the Community College. **DVD.** Call number: **378.12 GETTING 2006r**



How to Improve Your Questioning Techniques. Asking good questions can be harder than it sounds. This video demonstrates useful questioning techniques. 15-minute **VHS** video. Call Number: **MEDIA 371.3 HOW-TO 1991i**



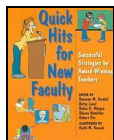
Kalanick, Kathryn A. **Educational Pathways: a Faculty Development Resource.** Clifton Park, NY: Thomson Delmar Learning, 2007. **Book with CD-ROM.** Call number: **378.12 KALANIC 2007**



Managing Student Conflict. Two master teachers discuss one of the most complicated classroom problems: how to manage student conflict. While the examples are K-12, many of these strategies can be used in the college classroom. 33-minute **VHS** video. Call Number: **MEDIA 371.1024 MANAGIN 1999s**



McKeachie's Teaching Tips: Strategies, Research, and Theory for College and University Teachers. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Chock full of ideas and each chapter includes a list of supplemental reading. **Book.** Call Number: **378.125 McKEAC 2006**



Quick Hits for New Faculty: Successful Strategies by Award Winning Teachers. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2004. **Book.** Call number: **378.12 QUICK 2004h**



Roueche, John E. **Practical Magic: on the Front Lines of Teaching Excellence.** Washington, DC: Community College Press, 2003. **Book.** Call number: **378.125 ROUECHE 2003**

We Need Your Contributions and Suggestions!

In upcoming months we plan to feature info about **ideas for September's Constitution Day** and **setting the stage for a new school year**. Contact newsletter editor, [Debbie Crumb](#), with your tips, websites and suggestions. To access past issues, go to the Library's website at <http://rtc.edu/library>, click on **Services and Information**, then **Library Publications**, then **Recent issues published by RTC Library**, and finally on the desired format (**PDF** or **Word**).



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