

# FACULTY AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

## Phyllis Rowe, BSN, MSN Associate Professor, Nursing

Associate Professor Phyllis Rowe is known on campus for her love of nursing and the joy she takes in teaching. As a senior member of the nursing faculty, she is instrumental in educating vocational nursing students for the rigorous, potentially life-saving work that awaits them.

It is a commitment to excellence that comes naturally to Phyllis. "I feel blessed to be in this profession and teaching at RCC," she says. "Students look to us to help them achieve their life goals. By helping them, we make it possible for them to make a difference in other peoples' lives. Every day here is an honor for me."

First arriving at the College in 1968, Phyllis quickly earned a reputation as a talented, hard-working, and creative teacher. Colleagues say that she has achieved a unique personal-professional balance in her teaching. Phyllis' students seem to agree. One former student purchased an alumni brick in Phyllis' honor and had it engraved: Phyllis Rowe, thank you for being the best teacher.

A respected member of her profession, Phyllis serves as an officer of the California Vocational Nurse Educators. In 2000, she was actively involved in raising funds for the RCC Alumni House Campaign, and in 2002 played an instrumental role in planning the Nursing Department's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

Perhaps one of her most reported upon innovations was the creation of the Calculations for Health Care Providers class, in which nursing students collaborate and use different methods to overcome math phobias. In class, Phyllis, a former math major, uses rap to communicate critical concepts. Critical because nurses must be "perfect" when it comes to calculating medication doses for patients.

A graduate of the University of Illinois, Phyllis earned her master's degree in nursing from California State University, Long Beach. Prior to becoming a nursing instructor, she was employed as a nurse in several hospitals in Chicago working in mental health and maternity units. She still remembers the curious mix of anticipation, contentment, and responsibility she felt each time she entered a hospital. She hopes her students and graduates find the same sense of wonder and satisfaction in their nursing careers.

It is through interaction with dedicated nursing faculty that students

