Having earned your degree or completed your course work for your certificate, you stand on the threshold of a new road and new experiences. We congratulate you and warmly welcome you into the Richland Community College Alumni Association.

Staying connected with Richland through the Alumni Association allows you to share your experiences and memories of your time spent here on our campus. Your involvement helps to create strong bonds among alumni, current students, faculty and staff, and the communities throughout the Richland District.

We invite you to visit the Alumni website at http://alumni.richland.edu to update your information and learn about Alumni benefits and special Alumni events.

We look forward to hearing from you and wish you every success!

Tricia Cordulack
Director of Scholarships and Alumni Relations

CONGRATULATIONS

You are about to complete your educational goal at Richland and will be receiving your degree or certificate. You should have received a postcard from the Registrar regarding the Grad Fair. We have already ordered a cap & gown for you from information provided on your Application for Graduation. At the Grad Fair you will be able to pick up announcements, order a DVD of the ceremony, check on honors status, and meet with Richland representatives as well as representatives from Millikin University, University of Illinois – Springfield, and Eastern Illinois University. When you pick up your cap and gown, you will be asked to complete an online Student Satisfaction Survey.

YOUR COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

2012 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR - RUTH WALLER

A 1976 graduate of Richland Community College, Ruth Waller obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1980 from the University of Illinois – Springfield. Ruth graduated from Southern Illinois University School of Law in 1987. Upon graduation from law school, Ruth returned to Decatur and practiced law for 19 years. In 2002, she received a graduate degree from Master’s Graduate Divinity School. In 2008, Ruth joined the Macon County State’s Attorney’s office as an Assistant State’s Attorney.

Ruth is currently the Senior Supervising Attorney for the Child Support Enforcement Division. In this position, Ruth has directed the collection of child support payments and enforcement of child support orders. During her tenure, Macon County has been among the top three Illinois counties in meeting child support-related goals.

Ruth has a long history of community service including serving on the Boards of the Boys and Girls Club of Decatur, the Decatur Mental Health Center, and the Minority Advisory Board at Millikin University. In 2011, Ruth developed a Mock Trial experience for high school students. Ruth recently completed training in the FBI Citizens Academy and serves on its Board of Directors. Ruth resides in Decatur and remains a strong advocate of Richland Community College.

2012 FACULTY GRADUATION SPEAKER - KAREN BECKER

Professor Karen Becker attended Marymount College in Salina, Kansas, and then graduated with a degree in English Literature from Kansas State University. She received her M.A. in English from Kansas State University in 1974. She is now ABD from the University of Missouri-Columbia in English with a specialization in 17th Century British Literature, in particular John Milton. From 1972 to the present she has taught English composition and literature at several colleges. She came to Richland in 1983 and taught at Richland and Millikin University as an adjunct faculty member until she was hired by Richland full-time in 1988. She is the widow of Dr. Stephen V. Becker, a veterinarian, businessman, and college teacher who served on the Richland Community College Board of Trustees. She has two children, both of whom attended Richland for their first two years and then graduated from the University of Illinois-Urbana.

2012 STUDENT GRADUATION SPEAKER - PAULA WOOD

Paula Wood is a mother of one son, Grant Wood, serving in the United States Air Force. Paula has been involved in many activities and organizations at Richland and in the community. She is a member of Student Senate and is currently serving as Student Trustee. The Student Trustee is the liaison for the students to the Board of Trustees and sits on various committees. Paula takes great pride in helping each student to the best of her ability and continues to help try to make a difference. Upon graduating from Richland, Paula plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in marketing.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST RICHLAND ALUMNI!
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
Commencement is May 18, 2012. The ceremony will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m and will last approximately one hour and thirty minutes. Doors to the Decatur Civic Center will open at 6:00 p.m.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS PINNING
A Pinning Ceremony for students graduating from the AD Nursing, Pharmacy Technology, Practical Nursing, Radiography, and Surgical Technology programs will begin at 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 18, 2012, in the Civic Center Theater. Graduates need to meet in the green room at 4:45 p.m. During the pinning ceremony, photographs will be taken of each student, and the event will be videotaped.

PARKING
Ample parking is available in the Civic Center parking lot. Persons with disabilities attending the ceremony, as well as others needing assistance, may be dropped off in the front of the Civic Center. Reserved parking spaces for persons with disabilities are available in the Civic Center parking lot.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Special seating arrangements have been made for persons with disabilities attending Commencement. The Civic Center and stage area are fully accessible. A special ramp will accommodate all graduates participating in Commencement. Guests who need a special accommodated program (enlarged print or Braille) should contact the Registrar at least two (2) weeks prior to Commencement. A sign language interpreter will be on stage during the Commencement ceremony. Guests or graduates needing any special accommodations should contact the Registrar (Room C129 or email graduation@richland.edu). The Civic Center is wheelchair accessible. Limited space is available.

DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE CREDITS
Questions regarding degree or certificate credits may be directed to the Student Records Office at graduation@richland.edu. To participate in Spring Commencement, a student must be completing the requirements for his or her certificate or degree by the end of Spring or Summer Term 2012 or have completed the requirements in Fall 2011.

NAME CARD
When graduates line up for the commencement ceremony, each will be given a card with his or her name printed on it. Students will hand name cards to Evyonne Hawkins, 2012 Faculty Member of the Year, or to Eric White, 2012 Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year, at the podium so that the name can be read when the graduate walks across the stage to receive a diploma cover. Official Richland Community College diplomas will be mailed to graduates after all requirements have been completed and certified by the Registrar.

PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEO
GradImages is the official photographer for Richland’s Commencement. Proofs will be sent to the graduate’s home and via e-mail within three to five days after graduation. Pictures may be ordered online, by phone, or by mail. GradImages can be contacted at 800-261-2576 or via e-mail at www.gradimages.com.

Registering graduates with GradImages provides information needed to deliver graduation proofs in a timely manner. You may also provide GradImages with e-mail addresses of up to six friends and family members to allow them to celebrate in the accomplishment.

GradImages in conjunction with Richland Community College is pleased to provide a complimentary 5x7 photograph to each graduate. The free 5x7 coupon will be emailed to each graduate with proofs and will include specific instructions on redeeming the picture. If there are any issues redeeming, graduates can contact GradImages Customer Service at 800-261-2576.

The ceremony will also be videotaped. Graduates may purchase a copy of the DVD by completing an order form at the Grad Fair. Each DVD copy will cost $10.00. DVD’s will be mailed six to eight weeks after Commencement.

In order to enhance an orderly ceremony, Richland asks that guests not take personal photographs and videos from the aisles or the balcony. The balcony is off limits and will be marked so. Please inform any guests so that everyone can enjoy the ceremony.

GRADUATING WITH HONORS
Students graduating with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher at the end of Fall 2011 will be acknowledged in the program and during Commencement and will wear an honor cord. Honor cords are provided to the students at the Commencement Ceremony.

Students’ honor status will be checked prior to the Grad Fair. Students who believe they should be graduating with honors will need to contact graduation@richland.edu 2 weeks prior to Commencement for verification. Only those students who are listed as receiving honors will be provided honor cords. Students who earn honors at the completion of Spring 2012 may pick up honor cords after the degree has been conferred.

KENTE CLOTH STOLES
Kente cloth stoles may be ordered by contacting Gail Bowman at (217) 875-7211, Ext. 352, by Monday, April 30, 2012.

PHI THETA KAPPA
Student members of Phi Theta Kappa may order honor stoles that indicate membership. Rental stoles are also available. Contact Teena Zindel-McWilliams at (217) 875-7211, Ext. 364, no later than Monday, April 30, 2012.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18**
Grad Fair: Pick up cap and gown. Check on honors status. Order a Commencement DVD. Pick up graduation announcements. Register for the Commencement Ceremony. Meet with Career Services, Financial Aid, Alumni Development, and the Bookstore. Representatives from Millikin University, University of Illinois – Springfield, and Eastern Illinois University will be available for students planning on transferring.

Mueller Student Center and Board Room 2:30-5:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 18**
Health Professions Pinning Rehearsal in the Decatur Civic Center Theater at 10:30 a.m. Graduation Rehearsal (reception to follow) at the Decatur Civic Center Arena at 11:00 a.m. Commencement procedures will be explained. Attendance is encouraged, but not required. Health Professions Pinning Ceremony begins at 5:00 p.m. Civic Center doors open for the Commencement Ceremony at 6:00 p.m. Ceremony begins at 7:00 p.m.

Students participating in Commencement must report to the Mezzanine no later than 6:15 p.m.
DIRECTIONS TO THE DECATUR CIVIC CENTER

#1 GARY K. ANDERSON PLAZA  |  DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62523  |  (217) 422-7300

FROM THE WEST:
East on I-72 to Business 51 South. South Business 51 turns into North Main Street after Pershing Road. Stay on North Main until reaching Business 36/Eldorado Street. Turn left on Eldorado; go to Jackson Street (3rd traffic light). Turn right on Jackson. Parking lot is 1 block South.

FROM THE EAST:
West on I-72 to Business 51 South. South Business 51 turns into North Main Street after Pershing Road. Stay on North Main until Business 36/Eldorado Street. Turn left on Eldorado; go to Jackson Street (3rd traffic light). Turn right on Jackson. Parking lot is 1 block South.

FROM THE NORTH:
South Business 51 turns into North Main Street after Pershing Road. Stay on North Main until you come to Business 36/Eldorado Street. Turn left on Eldorado; go to Jackson street (3rd Traffic Light). Turn right on Jackson. Parking lot is 1 block South.

FROM THE SOUTH:
North Business 51 turns into South Franklin Street after crossing lake; go North on Franklin until William Street. Turn left 1/3 block. Turn left arriving at #1 Gary K. Anderson Plaza in front of the Civic Center.