First day of classes at RCC sees healthy enrollment increase

Fall term enrollment at Rogue Community College is showing a nearly 3 percent growth over the previous year, with class registration continuing throughout this week.

At the beginning of the first day of classes on Sept. 26, the full-time equivalent (FTE) of 952 students had registered for academic and professional/technical classes. That number of students taking credit classes marks an increase of 26 FTE, or 2.88 percent, from the same date last fall, when the full-time equivalent of 926 students had enrolled in tuition courses. A total of 5,567 students have signed up for classes, an increase of 339 students compared to 5,238 at the same time last year.

“Increasing our enrollment has been a major goal at RCC as it is one of the best indicators of how well we are serving our community and region,” said President Peter Angstadt. “I think the rise in our enrollment at least partially reflects the decision of the RCC Board and administration to hold the line on not increasing tuition and fees this year, so that a college education can remain accessible and affordable.”

FTE is a measure of enrollment that converts full- and part-time student course loads to an equivalent of full time, approximately 15 classroom hours. The college receives state support based on FTE. Several variables will likely change final enrollment figures, and the college will continue to register students all week.

RCC’s new Table Rock Campus near White City accounts for 71 FTE, an indication that the college is addressing previously unmet needs in the Central Point/White City/Eagle Point area. Just over 600 students have enrolled for classes at the professional/technical training campus. As expected opening the new campus resulted in modest declines at Riverside Campus, down 20 FTE, and Redwood Campus, down 22 FTE. These drops, however, were more than made up for by enrollment at Table Rock.

Distance learning enrollment showed marked increases, amounting to 12.5 percent in general education classes, with an increase of 11 FTE, and 23 percent in professional/technical programs with a 4 FTE boost. These increases follow the considerable investment made by the college in expanding distance learning capacity in recent years and may also may be driven by the recent increases in gasoline prices.

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