Middle school students get early glimpse of college

Several hundred middle school students will get a firsthand view of Rogue Community College by touring the Riverside Campus in Medford.

Northern Jackson County schools received a federal “Gear Up” grant to help introduce them to post-secondary choices at a crucial point in their educational development.

“Students at that age actually make decisions about whether they are going to attend college – or they rule college out,’’ explained Shirlee Willis-Haslip, associate dean. “The grant is part of a long-range outreach effort designed to provide an early awareness of opportunities for higher education.”

RCC staff and representatives from the Associated Students of Rogue Community College have been organizing a series of campus tours for Jackson County eighth graders, training student guides to escort visitors and lining up various activities.

Visits began Feb. 11 with some 165 middle school students from Eagle Point. Shady Cove will send about 55 students on Feb. 18, and 145 White City students will be on campus Feb. 25. Visits run from 9 a.m. to noon.

Each session will begin with a welcome by Riverside Campus Executive Dean Mary Louise Doran and a virtual tour presentation. Visiting students will receive information about attending college and a briefing on RCC’s 2+2 Outreach program.

At each building a faculty member is prepared to do a 20-minute presentation. Options include a slideshow on international education opportunities and tours of the adaptive lab, including the Braille machine. Emergency medical technology and science instructors also have activities planned, and information about college English classes will be presented. Students also will tour the Jackson County Central Library.

In addition to the middle school visits, about 50 Eagle Point High School students will tour the Riverside Campus in April as part of the college’s ongoing outreach campaign.

For more information contact Shirlee Willis-Haslip, 245-7754.

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