RCC Board approves tuition award for National Guards members

After completing their enlistment, local Oregon National Guard and Reserve members will be eligible for a tuition award at Rogue Community College.

In acknowledgement and thanks to the guard for service to their country, the RCC Board of Education voted unanimously Tuesday to approve a one-time tuition award of up to six free credits for former Guard and Reserve members. They or their spouses may use the award up to one year after their date of honorable discharge.

RCC already offers tuition waivers to certain populations, including recent high school graduates and dislocated workers.

“The Guard and Reserve have responded to an extraordinary call to serve for our nation during the recent war on terror,” said Lynda Warren, dean of College Services, “and having been deployed, are another population worth of the college’s assistance.”

In addition to the tuition award, the RCC Foundation and ESAM Inc. of Grants Pass have established a scholarship for current or former members of the Guard and Reserve. ESAM has committed $10,000 over the next two years toward the scholarship.

The RCC Board also heard good news with respect to the $24 million bond levy approved Nov. 2 by Jackson County voters. RCC received an A-1 bond rating from Moody’s Investors Service, which provides independent credit ratings, and the bonds were sold Feb. 10. The repayment rate will be just 13 cents per $1,000 assessed value, except for the first year, when it will be 14 cents.

Originally, college officials estimated the rate at 14 cents per $1,000 over the 21-year life of the bonds. That means that the owner of a $150,000 home in Jackson County will pay approximately $19.50 a year to help repay the bonds. Bond funds may be spent only on capital construction projects in the county in which they were approved, and 85 percent of the bonds must be spent within three years.

Bond funds are designated for renovation of the Table Rock Campus in White City, improvements to Riverside Campus in Medford, property acquisition, and debt retirement.
In other business, the RCC Board of Education:

• Accepted the retirement of full-time faculty member Patti Kramer, who also served as 2+2 High School Outreach Coordinator. Kramer started at RCC in January 1977 as a part-time instructor. She later worked full time coordinating RCC Community and Continuing Education.
• Accepted a $3,000 continuation grant from the Associated General Contractors Construction Management Education Council for the annual RCC Build-a-Thon.
• Accepted a $5,500 grant from the Oregon Arts Commission for RCC’s ArtWorks Community Planning.
• Heard a first reading approving revisions to board policy regarding purchasing procedures and authority.
• Heard a first reading of a resolution adopting the Community College Rules of Procurement.

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