April 4, 2005

High school students demonstrate construction skills at Build-A-Thon

The Rogue Community College Construction Technology Department will host Build-A-Thon 2005 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 29 at the Jackson County Exposition Park, Olsrud Arena.

The event gives high school construction students a real-world building experience. High schools scheduled to attend are Grants Pass, Henley, Klamath Union, Mazama, Rogue River, and South Medford.

Working in teams, students will read blueprints and select the necessary materials to complete a project. Competing with peers from other high schools, they will earn awards and prizes for building a quality product on budget and on schedule. Experts from the construction industry will inspect and grade their work. Thanks to local business donations, prizes will be awarded to the winning teams, and every participant will go home with a tool or other gift.

The event also will give students an opportunity to consider their next step after finishing high school:

• RCC Construction Technology staff and students will be available to discuss the college construction program.
• 2+2 staff will explain how to receive college credit while still in high school.
• Oregon Building Congress representatives will be recruiting for their summer Construction Academy.
• Construction employers will discuss industry employment opportunities.

RCC adds a community service element to the event by designing projects that meet the needs of a local non-profit organization. This year’s project will be constructing doghouses for Rogue Valley Guide Dogs in Training. Dogs and their trainers will be at the event. Past projects include doghouses for the Humane Society, animal enclosures for Wildlife Images rehabilitation center, and garden sheds for Habitat for Humanity.

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Build-A-Thon is a joint effort between the RCC Construction Technology Program, the RCC 2+2 Early College Credit program, and area high school construction technology programs. Donations of funds, time and other support has been provided by Associated General Contractors Oregon Columbia Chapter and Homebuilders Association of Jackson County.

More information is available by calling Ralph Henderson, Construction Technology Department head; 245-7907, or Brad Ross, department secretary, 245-7980; or B.J. Taylor, 2+2, 245-7710.

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