RCC Foundation to award record number of scholarships

When the Rogue Community College Foundation holds its annual scholarship awards ceremony on May 25, a record-breaking 273 students will receive a financial boost to attend college next year.

The ceremony begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel, 200 N. Riverside Ave., Medford. More than 400 students, family members, foundation donors, and members of the foundation board will attend the gala evening. Refreshments will be served and media representatives are invited to attend.

“This year the foundation received 324 applications for scholarships. Thanks to generous donors the RCC Foundation was able to award scholarships to 273 students – more than ever before,” said Tom Bradbeer, co-executive director. Scholarships range from $250 to $2,500, with the average totaling $1,029. Eighty percent of applicants received an award, which also sets a new record,” Bradbeer added. “Our goal is to be able to award assistance to every qualified applicant.”

Tanya Dungey will receive the Rogue Scholar Award. Presented annually to an outstanding RCC student and based on academic achievement, the $2,500 scholarship is supported entirely by donations from the 24-members Foundation Board. Dungey is a second-year student and has earned a 3.95 grade point average. Avi Zohar, the previous Rogue Scholar, will be the featured speaker at the 2005 ceremony.

Matriculation awards will be presented to four students. These scholarships support RCC students transferring to a participating four-year university in Oregon. The awards are supported by the RCC Foundation, which provides $500, and by the university foundations, which match the RCC award for a total of $1,000.

Recipients for 2005-06 are Brettani Webb, Southern Oregon University; Joni Barden, Oregon Institute of Technology; Gary Bell, Oregon State University; and Maxwell Oxman, Portland State University.
RCC Foundation assets now total $6,541,170, with 133 named scholarship accounts, 66 of which are permanent endowments. The endowment portion of the foundation’s assets now totals $4,493,687. The largest single scholarship fund is the Ann and Wirt Cogswell Fund, which provided $69,000 in scholarships to 43 RCC students for next year. The fund, which comes from the sale of 100 acres of land donated to the foundation by Ann Cogswell in 1999, now totals $1,268,713.

Scholarship awards also are supported by fund-raising events such as RCC Cares, a campaign in which RCC employees donate to the foundation; the foundation annual fund campaign; Treasures of Summer, an annual auction sponsored by RCC faculty and staff; by many business donors; and several foundations that support annual scholarship awards. In addition many generous individuals contribute to the RCC Foundation in support of scholarship funds, some as memorials to family members or friends. Others donate through organizations such as American Association of University Women, Zonta, and the Soroptomists.

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