RCC Foundation names executive director

The Rogue Community College Foundation has selected Jennifer Wheatley as its new executive director. Wheatley has consulted on strategic planning and development for foundations, governmental organizations, small businesses, nonprofits and large corporations.

“We’ve very happy to have someone with Jennifer’s very high qualifications on board,” said Midge Renton, a past president of the RCC Foundation and a founder of the college. “She brings the enthusiasm of youth and also has a lot of fundraising experience.”

Wheatley’s consulting background includes developing and promoting ecotourism and local economies in countries that include Japan, Chile, the Bahamas, and Argentina. Wheatley, who helped write a long-range master plan for Denver tourism, has served on the boards of several groups and was executive director of a small nonprofit, teaching life skills to at-risk youth.

“I felt drawn to the foundation,” Wheatley said. “I really enjoy long-range strategic planning and development. This is an exciting period of growth for the foundation and the college as it develops the new Table Rock Campus.”

Wheatley officially takes office July 5 but has already begun been meeting with interim co-executive directors Tom Bradbeer and Rick Levine. The two retired RCC administrators have been serving as foundation heads on an interim basis. Bradbeer was dean of Human Resources and College Advancement and Levine was president of RCC.

Wheatley is already familiar with southern Oregon and RCC. A graduate of North Valley High School, she worked as a Rogue River guide and took several classes at RCC including Spanish. Her mother, Carolyn Wheatley, taught Humanities at Rogue and served on the RCC Foundation Board. Jennifer Wheatley received a bachelor’s in sociology and environmental science at Whitman College and a master’s in tourism and business from the University of Denver.

“I had been wanting to return to Oregon, but work kept bringing me back to Denver,” she said. “I missed the greenery in Oregon. And it still feels like home. I’ll be closer to my family,” she added. “I was raised in a family that values education,” she continued. “I believe very strongly that people need and deserve an opportunity for education. This position is both challenging and something I can truly get behind.”

EDITORS: Photo available on request.

###

N05-74