Hispanic student education conference set for RCC

Rogue Community College will host the fifth annual Hispanic high school student education conference – Educación, Un Mundo de Oportunidades (Education, A World of Opportunities) – on Feb. 3.

The conference is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at RCC’s new Table Rock Campus, 7800 Pacific Ave., White City. The event welcomes area high school juniors and seniors who have pre-registered. Workshops include college orientation, financial aid, career exploration and a student and community leader panel discussion. A complimentary continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Featured keynote guest speaker is Jimmy Santiago Baca. He is the winner of the Pushcart Prize, the American Book Award, the National Poetry Award, and the International Hispanic Heritage Award. Born in New Mexico of Chicano and Apache descent, Baca was raised by his grandmother and later sent to an orphanage. A runaway at age 13, he began to turn his life around after being sentenced to five years in a maximum-security prison at 21. He learned to read and write and found his passion for poetry. In 2003, he received a doctorate in literature from the University of New Mexico.

He has appeared on National Public Radio, Good Morning America, National Discovery Channel, PBS Language of Life with Bill Moyers, and CBS Sunday Morning with Charles Osgood. Baca has recently published two new books: “The Importance of a Piece of Paper” and “Winter Poems Along the Rio Grande.”

Support for the 2006 conference includes grants from the Anna May Family Foundation and from Lazaro Ayala, administered through Rogue Valley Medical Center. Also providing support are RCC and the college’s Office of Diversity, Associated Students of RCC, TRIO Education Opportunity Center, and the Inter Club Council.

Participating partners include RCC faculty, staff, and administration, Southern Oregon University, Medford Police Department, Southern Oregon Education Service District, and Oregon Employment Department. Also involved are Jackson and Josephine County high schools, Kids Unlimited, Providence Hospital, Rogue Valley Medical Center, Area Health Education Center, and numerous Hispanic restaurants and businesses.

For more information contact Shareen Vogel, Student Life advisor, 245-7727.

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