Rogue Community College

NEWS RELEASE

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RCC will seek Josephine County bond measure

Rogue Community College will ask Josephine County voters in November to approve an approximate $15 million bond levy that would fund needed renovations and improvements to college facilities in Grants Pass and the Illinois Valley, with an emphasis on science, business training, and art programs.

The RCC Board of Education on Tuesday unanimously approved seeking passage of the bond measure. Estimated cost to property owners would be under 20 cents per $1,000 of assessed value (less than $40 per year for a property with an assessed value of $200,000). President Peter Angstadt said a bond levy is necessary to protect and enhance investments in the college.

“The college is requesting the bond to improve and sustain the quality of educational and job training opportunities for our students and citizens,” he explained. Funds would be used only for improving facilities at the 36-year-old Redwood campus, which originally was a Job Corps Training site, and at the college's Illinois Valley learning center.

For the past several years RCC staff and faculty have been meeting with community members to determine program and development priorities and plans for facilities, said Nancy Maxwell, executive dean of Redwood Campus. The college also has worked with architects to develop cost estimates.

Priorities include a science, health care, and a business development/training center. If successful, the bond measure would also finance art and humanities classrooms and upgrades to the nursing training area. Also planned is an expansion of RCC’s learning/training facility in the Illinois Valley to meet the needs of a growing population in that area.

“We’ve received a really strong affirmation and vote of confidence on the work RCC does in the community,” said Jim Dole, an RCC board member representing Grants Pass. “RCC is seen as a strong force for the region’s job training and economic development.”

Since February, Dole and board member Dean Wendle, along with a group of college staff members, have been considering a potential bond campaign for Josephine County, including holding a series of focus groups involving representatives from a wide spectrum of occupations and interests.

“We’ve been pleased to get a tremendously positive response and to see that we have broad-based support and are seen as good stewards of our resources,” Dole said. “I feel very positive about taking this bond levy to our voters.”

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In November 2004 RCC passed a $24 million bond levy in Jackson County. That funding, limited by law to use in Jackson County, has gone toward developing the Table Rock Campus, purchasing previously leased buildings in downtown Medford, and paying off debt. Jackson County bond funding also will cover RCC’s share of an education center in Medford being constructed in partnership with Southern Oregon University.

**In other business the RCC Board:**

- Accepted a $15,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Community College and Workforce Development for Electronic Date Interchange. EDI implementation will enable RCC to exchange college transcript information electronically with admission departments at the 33 participating community colleges and universities throughout Oregon.

- Approved revisions to board policies covering order of agenda and procedures.

- Authorized investing taxing district funds through the Josephine County treasurer’s office.

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