RCC will furlough adult diploma program, focus on GED preparation

Rogue Community College will concentrate efforts to help students that did not complete high school to prepare for the General Educational Development (GED) exams.

“We want to help these students get on the fast track to reaching their goal of high school equivalency,” said Claudia Sullivan, director of Enrollment Services at the college. “The bottom line is that it’s faster and cheaper to earn the GED rather than an Adult High School Diploma.”

The Rogue Community College Board of Education at its Jan. 17 meeting approved discontinuing the adult high school diploma program and focusing college resources instead on GED preparation. Four students currently pursuing adult high school diplomas will be allowed to complete their studies.

“When RCC Enrollment Services staff explain the difference between study requirements for the GED and the AHSD, and the costs and time involved, almost everyone chooses to earn a GED,” Sullivan said. The expense to potential AHSD students is paying full tuition and fees for a maximum of 66 program credits and 24 potential prerequisite credits.

GED requirements were revised nationally in 2002 and the stigma once attached to that exam is gone, Sullivan noted.

“People should no longer assume that the GED is the easy route to high school completion,” she explained.

Students prepare for the GED at RCC Learning Centers, which provide options to accommodate different learning styles. The fee to study for the test is $31 per term. The exam covers literature, science, social studies, math and writing. Cost to take the GED is $90. Students may study until they feel proficient in a subject area before taking that section of the GED test.

GED completers are eligible for RCC’s “Buy One, Get One Free” tuition award. The award is a waiver for up to $354 in tuition.

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Many Oregon universities accept a GED as high school completion, Sullivan noted. The U.S. Army will accept a GED as well and will pay for students to study and take the GED test. Students still enrolled in high school can make up credit in RCC’s summer high school credit program. Information is at http://learn.roguecc.edu/developmental/HS.html.

In other business the board:

• Accepted a $4,000 grant from the Anna May Family Foundation to support the fifth annual Hispanic high school student education conference. *Un Mundo de Oportunidades* (A World of Opportunities) is scheduled Feb. 3 at RCC’s Table Rock Campus. The event provides local high school juniors and seniors information about financial aid, career exploration, and includes a panel discussion with community and student leaders. For more information contact Shareen Vogel, Student Life coordinator, at 245-7727.

• Accepted a Carl Perkins grant from the Oregon Department of Education. The $540,387 continuation grant provides funding for students in RCC’s professional-technical programs, including instructional services, equipment, and vocational special services.

• Accepted a $25,000 grant from Jackson County School District 6 to provide GED instruction to younger students at the Table Rock Campus. The youth program, titled Diploma Equivalency Program for Outreach Teens (DEPOT), will provide 12-16 hours of instruction per week and continue through spring term.

• Accepted a bid for banking services from U.S. Bank, based on competitive cost analysis for requested services.

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