Making the change from high school to college can be intimidating, and having a disability can make the shift even more challenging for adolescents.

To help students successfully adjust to post-secondary education, Rogue Community College is holding Transition Academy 2006 on March 3. More than 100 southern Oregon high school juniors and seniors are registered to attend.

Now in its second year, the academy is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Jackson County Central Library, 205 S. Central Ave., Medford. An information session for parents of students with disabilities and school personnel will be held March 2.

“Many high school students with specific educational challenges are unaware that higher education opportunities are available to them,” said Dr. Guerin Fischer, RCC Support Services coordinator. “RCC has a comprehensive program designed for helping every student be successful. These services include tutoring, testing accommodations, note takers, books on tape, and various adaptive technology,” he added.

“The RCC Transition Academy is a yearly seminar which helps prepare students for the changes that take place from high school to college,” Guerin continued. “Prospective students have an opportunity to hear from current students, faculty, financial aid officials, and placement test specialists.”

Attendees will hear about the college experience from the perspective of RCC students with disabilities. Speakers include Ted Walston, 24, recently selected as one of RCC’s two Outstanding Student Scholars of the Year. The visitors also will learn about RCC Support Services, the placement testing process, career planning, and choosing college courses. RCC instructors will present information about various college programs. A tour of the RCC Riverside Campus is planned.

Parents and school personnel will have the opportunity to hear about RCC services and opportunities during a parent/teacher session scheduled from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 2 in the Central Library Community Room.
Both events are co-hosted by Rogue Community College and the University of Oregon Educational and Community Supports Division, with funding provided by the Earning for a Lifetime Project, a cooperative program involving the U.S. Department of Education and the Oregon Department of Education. Additional information is available by calling RCC Support Services at 245-7537 or TTY 245-7587, or visit http://www.roguecc.edu/TransitionAcademy/

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