High school students demonstrate skills at RCC Build-A-Thon

Rogue Community College will host Build-A-Thon 2006 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 28 at the Table Rock Campus, 7800 Pacific Ave. in White City.

The event, sponsored by RCC’s Construction Technology Department, gives high school construction students from throughout southern Oregon a real-world building experience. Working in teams, students will read blueprints and select materials to complete a project. Competing with peers from other high schools, they will earn awards and prizes for building a quality product on budget and on schedule. Experts from the construction industry will inspect and grade their work. Thanks to local business donations, prizes will be awarded to the winning teams, and every participant will go home with a tool or other gift.

RCC adds a community service element to the event by designing projects that meet the needs of a local non-profit organization. This year’s endeavor will be constructing garden arbor benches to donate to local charities. Past projects include doghouses for the Humane Society, animal enclosures for Wildlife Images Rehabilitation Center, and garden sheds for Habitat for Humanity. This year, for the first time, the RCC student chapter of the Associated General Contractors will work with middle school students as they build their projects.

In addition to the competition, the event gives students an opportunity to consider their next step after finishing high school. RCC Construction Technology staff and students will be available to discuss the college construction program, and RCC 2+2 Early College Credit staff will explain how to receive college credit while still in high school. Oregon Building Congress representatives will be recruiting for their summer Construction Academy, and industry employers will discuss industry employment opportunities.

Build-A-Thon is a joint effort among the RCC Construction Technology program, the RCC 2+2 Early College Credit program, and area high school construction technology programs. The Associated General Contractors, Oregon Columbia Chapter, and the Homebuilders Association of Jackson County have provided donations of funds, time, and other support.

More information is available by calling Ralph Henderson, Construction Technology Department head, at 245-7907; Brad Ross, department secretary, at 245-7980; or B.J. Taylor, 2+2 Early College Credit, at 245-7710.

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