Grant benefits Early Childhood Center

Youngsters attending the new Redwood Early Childhood Center will have nutritious meals and snacks, prepared in a well-equipped commercial kitchen, thanks to a $20,000 grant from the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation.

Construction of the center, which is located on the Rogue Community College Redwood Campus in Grants Pass, is nearing completion. The facility is a collaborative venture between RCC, Southern Oregon Head Start and Josephine County Early Intervention.

When it opens Sept. 19, the center will provide Head Start educational programs for young children ages 3 and 4 from low-income families and for children with disabilities. It will serve as a lab school for students in RCC’s Early Childhood Education program. Early Intervention Services will provide special services for children with disabilities. The center will also be used for early childhood conferences and events.

“This grant will definitely impact the health of the children who will be attending our programs, as well as contribute to their knowledge of the importance of good nutrition,” said Connie Denham, Early Childhood Education department head. Denham will accept the grant at an award ceremony beginning at 10 a.m. June 26 at Seven Feathers Hotel and Resort. Funding will be used to purchase commercial equipment including a freezer, range, sinks, and stainless steel tables.

RCC provided the building site for the project, and a $600,000 Community Development Block Grant was awarded through the City of Grants Pass. More than $600,000 in additional funding has been obtained through grants and donations. Grants came from organizations including the RCC Foundation, as well as the Gates, Four-Way, Collins, Carpenter, Allen and Cheney foundations.

For more information contact Connie Denham, department head, Early Childhood Education, 956-7053.

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