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### **RCC fall term enrollment up 30 percent**

With classes set to begin Monday, Rogue Community College is projecting a 30 percent increase in fall term enrollment over a year ago.

And while contractors scramble to finish remodeling projects funded by state stimulus dollars, RCC academic and financial aid advisors have been working hard to assure that the influx of students get the resources and classes they need for the coming school year.

Placement testing and orientation sessions have been full, while counselors have seen a continuous number of students seeking services daily since July. Financial aid applications also have increased dramatically. During the last 21-month processing period (January 2008 to September 2009), RCC processed 12,017 applications and awarded approximately \$20 million in financial aid. From January 2009 to mid-September, the RCC Financial Aid Department has processed 11,732 applications and projects it will award as much as \$32 million in financial aid.

Many high-demand classes are full, but college staff members are helping students apply for financial aid and register for winter term. College officials credit much of the jump in enrollment to the struggling economy.

“Many who are unemployed or under-employed are turning to RCC, for training and the opportunity to learn new job skills so they can re-enter the job market,” said RCC President Peter Angstadt, who noted that overall enrollment for the 2008-09 academic year was up 17 percent. “We’ve truly been first-responders in this recession.”

Economists are forecasting the end of the recession or at least easing, but high unemployment is likely to continue for some time, Angstadt noted.

“RCC is training the workforce for a resurgence of traditional jobs such as construction, nursing, and automotive technology, we’re readying students for new jobs in ‘green’ technology fields, and we’re looking ahead by providing the groundwork for many jobs that don’t yet exist,” he added.

“We’re also geared up to serve veterans returning from deployment who are eager to use their G.I. benefits,” he said.

(more)

Angstadt also attributes enrollment growth to RCC's increased marketing and recruitment efforts, to the fact that RCC's \$73-per-credit tuition is a wise economic choice, and to RCC's continuing academic reputation. For the fifth year in a row, he noted, RCC students who transferred to Oregon four-year universities earned the highest overall grade point average, according to a recent Oregon University System study.

"RCC helps people achieve their goals and dreams," Angstadt said. "We have the resources to help them through these difficult economic times, we have programs that lead to meaningful careers, and our students receive the education and training companies look for when hiring employees."

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