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RCC transfer students achieve outstanding results

Rogue Community College students transferring to Oregon universities continue to earn grade point averages higher than students from other community colleges in the state.

The students' top-rated academic success at public four-year schools maintains a pattern established over the past five years. Overall, the 1,175 RCC transfer students compiled an average GPA of 3.12, a level also reached only by Central Oregon Community College. Average for all 13,789 community college transfers was 3.05.

Once again, RCC students also outpaced students who began their post-secondary educations as freshmen at the universities; they accrued a 3.08 GPA. The data, provided by the Oregon University System and the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, covers students enrolled at RCC in 2006-07 who transferred to an OUS school for 2007-08.

RCC students' success derives from excellent academic instruction as well as strong support systems that encourage self-confidence and responsibility, according to Cheryl Markwell, RCC dean of Instruction.

"We put a lot of effort into upholding rigorous standards for our students, whether they are destined for immediate transfer or not, and we are proud that these efforts result in such good outcomes for our students," Markwell said. "In addition to high standards, we also provide confidence-building academic support to help students reach our expectations," she noted.

"It isn't just about teaching the 'right stuff,'" Markwell added. "It includes preparing students to take responsibility for their own success, holding them accountable, and supporting them as they learn. We think we do a very good job in all three of these roles, and our students' subsequent success bears that out."

Individual program areas where RCC students excelled include social sciences, where some 842 former RCC students earned a 3.17 GPA, matched solely by Umpqua Community College. The statewide average was 2.98.

In arts and science, 677 RCC transfer students maintained a 3.24 average, a level eclipsed slightly by Klamath Community College. Average for all students was 3.13.

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For science classes, RCC transfer students compiled a 2.87 average. That placed RCC sixth overall but second among colleges of significant size.

RCC transfer students taking math classes compiled a 2.68 GPA; statewide the average was 2.59. Students from three other schools placed higher, but among larger schools only Portland Community College students outpaced Rogue. Advanced math classes (beyond calculus) also found RCC students doing well, earning a 2.97 average, second to PCC.

RCC transfer students who enrolled in foreign language classes put together a 3.29 average, the highest among Oregon's larger community colleges and .15 above the state average. RCC students also stood out in English composition, with a 3.2 average compared to the statewide 3.15.

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