



**Margaret Bradford, Director**  
**Marketing and Community Relations**  
3345 Redwood Highway, H Bldg.  
Grants Pass, OR 97527  
mbradford@roguecc.edu  
Ph: (541) 956-7304 Fax: (541) 471-3548

**Oct. 5, 2009**

### **New RCC dental lab opens array of training opportunities**

MEDFORD — Dental Assisting program students at Rogue Community College now have access to a new state-of-the-art lab classroom for clinical training.

Installation of the six-station facility, featuring equipment manufactured in Oregon, was complete just in time for the beginning of the fall term. It features six working operatories, X-ray equipment, and more. The new lab classroom is located on RCC's Riverside Campus in A Building, 202 S Riverside Ave., Room 22.

“This is a topnotch resource,” said Susan Panisello, RCC Dental Assistant program training services coordinator. “With six stations we will be able to teach clinical lab classes on-site every term.”

Previously, RCC rented facilities that were available for classes only on Saturdays. The arrangement limited access to training opportunities for students enrolled in the college's one-year certificate program. The new lab is more cost effective, Panisello noted, because rental fees have been eliminated. The space previously served as a biology/science lab, which was relocated to the RCC/SOU Higher Education Center.

Robert Felthousen, RCC Dental Assistant lead instructor, is enthused about how the facility will help the program grow stronger.

“The new lab is fantastic. In rented facilities we were limited to weekends and in how much we could teach,” he said. “Now we will be able to cover many more procedures and concepts and provide much more hands-on learning”

Burkhart Dental installed the first two stations in March and recently completed the second phase, installing another four chairs in September. The laboratory equipment and installation cost approximately \$180,000. A federal Carl Perkins Grant underwrote most of the expenditure.

“This also opens opportunities to provide continuing education classes to area dental professionals,” Panisello said. “We hope to partner with the local dental community to have dentists come to the RCC lab clinic and perhaps even provide some patient services onsite. This lab gives us so many opportunities to work toward.”

**(more)**

RCC already has working relationships with dental offices throughout the Rogue Valley to provide students onsite practicum experience, according to Panisello. Each student must complete 270-plus hours of practicum training. The new lab classroom realistically mirrors technology and working conditions in an actual dental office.

“Not only is the equipment made in the U.S., it’s made here in Oregon,” Panisello said. “The company, A-dec is located in Newberg, and it really supports schools. They gave us a discount, so we were able to get even more equipment.”

Program administrators are preparing for an Oct. 23 open house for the area’s dental community. Representatives from Burkhart, A-dec and Dentsply will attend. Dental assisting students will be on hand serving as ambassadors for the program.

For more information on RCC’s Dental Assisting program, contact Susan Panisello, training services coordinator, at 245-7750, or visit [www.roguecc.edu/Dental](http://www.roguecc.edu/Dental).

###

**N09-131**