Industry Showcase set for Jan. 28

Regional business leaders are collaborating with economic development and educational partners to present an Industry Showcase Jan. 28 and a follow-up series of tours of area companies.

The Industry Showcase event will feature panel presentations from five different local industries addressing projected workforce needs, skills, the value of secondary education, and recommendations for local educational providers.

The showcase will take place Jan. 28 from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at the RCC/SOU Higher Education Center, 101 S. Bartlett St. in Medford. Refreshments will be provided. Hosting the event is Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SOREDI), along with numerous agency partners including Rogue Community College, the Rogue Valley Workforce Development Council, and the Southern Oregon Education Service District.

Participating industries include: automotive and diesel technology, manufacturing, electronics, healthcare and informatics, and construction technology. This presentation is geared toward education and workforce professionals such as middle and high school teachers, (particularly in Career and Technical Ed, Math and Science), high school and college academic and career counselors, school administrators, curriculum developers, and workforce agency employment counselors. RSVP to Marlane Zerby @ SOESD 776-8593 or marlane_zerby@soesd.k12.or.us.

The Industry Showcase event kicks off a series of five industry tours beginning Feb. 18 and running through May 13. Local private and public companies in the two-county area confirmed to participate include TEC Equipment, Lithia AutoPlex, Erickson Air-Crane, Microvellum, ESAM, Asante Health Systems, American Medical Response, Wildish Standard Paving and Adroit Construction. The tours are designed to introduce high school students and other local job seekers to workforce opportunities in the region and the career pathways through RCC. Up to 50 people will participate in each of the tours.

Private contributions and a grant from the Rogue Valley Workforce Development Council will fund the tours, which include transportation and lunches for all participants. Participants will also be invited to apply for $1,000 scholarships from SOREDI and the Rogue Valley Workforce Development Council for the 2009-2010 school year.

Interested educational providers and students seeking additional information regarding the Industry Showcase and the respective industry tours should contact Serena St. Clair, Pathways and Articulation coordinator at RCC, 245-7711. Interested businesses should call Colleen Padilla, Business Development Manager at SOREDI, 773-8947.