High school students demonstrate construction skills at RCC Build-A-Thon

With hammers and saws in hand, high school students will compete at the Rogue Community College Build-A-Thon 2009. Scheduled from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 25 at the RCC Table Rock Campus, 7800 Pacific Ave, White City, the event is hosted by the RCC Construction Technology Department and gives high school construction students a real-world building experience.

Working in teams, students will read blueprints and select the necessary materials to complete a project. They will compete with peers from other high schools, earning awards and prizes for building a quality product on budget and on schedule. Experts from the construction industry will inspect and grade their work.

Thanks to local business donations, prizes will be awarded to the winning teams, and every participant will go home with a tool or other gift. The RCC student chapter of Associated General Contractors has again invited middle school students to participate and will direct them as they build a project at the event.

The build-a-thon also provides an opportunity for students to consider next steps after completing high school. RCC Construction Technology staff and students will be available to discuss the college construction program, staff from the Early College Credit 2+2 program will explain how to receive college credit while still in high school, Oregon Building Congress representatives will recruit for their summer Construction Academy, and construction employers will promote industry employment opportunities.

RCC adds a community service element to the event by constructing projects that meet the needs of a local non-profit organization. Participants will build doghouses to be donated to Dogs for the Deaf as well as other local charities.

Build-A-Thon is a combined effort among the RCC Construction Technology Program, the RCC Early College Credit 2+2 program, and area high school construction technology programs. Donations of funds, time and other support has been provided by Associated General Contractors Oregon Columbia Chapter and Homebuilders Association of Jackson County.

More information is available by calling Ralph Henderson, Construction Technology Department, 245-7907; Barbara Brown, 245-7980; or B.J. Taylor, Early College Credit 2+2, 245-7710.

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