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July 1, 2009

RCC Foundation honors outstanding graduate

The Rogue Community College Foundation presented its 2009 Outstanding Alumni Award to a Human Services graduate involved in substance abuse recovery and volunteer activities.

Denise Olson received the award at the Foundation's 29th annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony, where more than \$500,000 in scholarships were recently presented to 414 students.

A 1993 RCC graduate, Olson earned an associate degree in Human Services/Substance Abuse. After graduation she worked with the Rogue Valley Addictions and Recovery Center as a residential counselor. In 1997 she became a day reporting counselor with Josephine County and was soon promoted to her current position as Treatment Services manager. In that role Olson helped establish the county's alcohol and drug program.

In addition to Olson's professional accomplishments, she is a member of Zonta International and was instrumental in creating and organizing the annual "Meth Summit" the past three years. She serves on numerous Zonta committees and is the 2009 recipient of the Shirley Campbell "Zontian of the Year" Award.

Olson also has served on the board of directors for Options for Southern Oregon Board for the past five years and is a 10-year member of the RCC Human Services Advisory Board.

A wife and mother, Olson always takes Valentine's Day off from her regular job to deliver flowers for a local florist because, she says, it makes her happy to see people smile.

For more information contact Jennifer Wheatley, executive director, RCC Foundation, at 956-7291.

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