Site visit for RCC’s accreditation review set for Oct. 26-28

Representatives from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) will visit Rogue Community College Oct. 26-28 as part of a comprehensive accreditation evaluation.

Chief evaluator Dr. Jill A. Wakefield and her team will be at the RCC/SOU Higher Education Center, 101 S Bartlett St., Medford, for three days. The team will gather data, conduct meetings and interviews, and write a report that includes compliments, commendations, concerns and recommendations. An exit interview covering highlights of the site visit is set for Oct. 28. The evaluation is the culmination of a 10-year full-scale accreditation.

NWCCU is a regional agency with accreditation authority approved by the U.S. Department of Education. RCC’s last comprehensive evaluation and reaffirmation of accreditation was 2001.

Regional accreditation is a voluntary, non-governmental process of self-analysis and peer review. It assures educational quality and encourages improvement through evaluations based on college mission, core themes and accepted academic standards and public expectations. Other advantages include recognizable degrees, transferable credit offerings and eligibility for student federal financial aid. In addition, accreditation ensures the college’s eligibility for state and federal grants and funding opportunities.

Last fall, RCC submitted a progress report to NWCCU that included updates on strategic planning and part-time faculty evaluation processes. The full-scale evaluation will incorporate a written report based on five key standards: (1) mission, core themes and expectations, (2) resources and capacity, (3) planning, effectiveness and improvement and (4) core theme planning, and (5) mission fulfillment.

In accordance with NWCCU policy, RCC has publicly announced the scheduled visit and invited written comments. Comments must be sent by Sept. 26 to Dr. Sandra E. Elman, president, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, 8060 165th Ave. N.E., Suite 100, Redmond, WA 98052-3981. The commission will forward public comments, if any, to the evaluation committee and to the college approximately 10 days prior to the evaluation site visit for response.

For more information about RCC accreditation, including updates, visit www.roguecc.edu/accreditation or contact Denise Swafford, accreditation liaison officer/administrative coordinator, RCC President’s Office, at 541-956-7087, or dswafford@roguecc.edu.

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Twitter cue: RCC on-site accreditation visit Oct. 26-28 at HEC

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