The Rogue Community College Small Business Development Center, one of 19 centers statewide, is listed among the top performing centers in Oregon for 2010.

All SBDC’s have contractual performance outcomes in their contracts with the Small Business Administration (SBA), according to John Lopez, RCC SBDC director, and as of Dec. 31, 2010, the RCC center ranked either number one, two or three in eight of 10 statewide performance categories.

In the most important economic impact category tracked — jobs created — RCC assisted SBDC clients to create 100 Josephine County jobs in 2010, which was third in the state. The center was number one for serving long-term clients, who are usually mature businesses that can impact the local economy the easiest.

According to Lopez, the RCC SBDC is outperforming centers in Portland, Salem, Clackamas and Corvallis, which have much larger business and population bases. In 2009, the RCC center was named Oregon SBA’s Center of Excellence and Innovation and outperformed that years numbers in 2010.

“In early 2008, we purposefully added services to existing mature businesses with the Next Level Plan and beefed up our Small Business Management services with the help of grants,” Lopez said. “In addition, we have added training tuition support for new and existing microenterprise businesses. Our satellite center in Kerby is outperforming expectations,” he added.

“The performance numbers we are seeing now are the result of broadening our services with excellent staff and partnerships with the City of Grants Pass and SOREDI (Southern Oregon Region Economic Development Inc.) that are connecting with clients and producing results.” The RCC SBDC provides services to any size business for most any need, according to Lopez.

“If the center doesn’t have the expertise, it can be found,” he said. “Business counseling is free, and training is affordably priced.”

EDITORS: Statewide performance numbers among SBDCs are available by calling the SBDC at 541-956-7494.