RCC Build-A-Thon gives high school students hands-on experience

High school students from throughout southern Oregon will demonstrate their construction skills April 22 at the annual Rogue Community College Build-A-Thon.

The event is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday at the RCC Table Rock Campus, 7800 Pacific Ave, White City, and is hosted by the RCC Construction Technology Department.

Build-A-Thon gives high school construction students a real-world building experience. Working in teams, students 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 Build-A-Thon also provides an opportunity for students to consider next steps after completing high school. RCC Construction Technology staff will discuss the college construction program, staff from the Early College Credit 2+2 program will explain how high school students can receive college credit, and construction employers will promote industry employment opportunities.

RCC adds a community service element to the event by designing projects that meet the needs of a local non-profit organization. This year’s project will be constructing a garden shed for Living Opportunities, an organization that assists people with developmental disabilities. Past Build-A-Thon projects include doghouses for the Humane Society and animal enclosures for Wildlife Images rehabilitation center.

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