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Eagle Point and Crater students earning high school and RCC degrees

In June, the Rogue Community College Electronics Department will celebrate a special group of graduates from its high school outreach course offerings.

Five students from Eagle Point High School and two from Crater High School, who have also been enrolled in RCC classes, will earn either a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree and/or a one-year certificate in electronics in addition to their high school diplomas.

Gabriela Hernandez, Jeremy Burke, Daniel Taylor, Justin Green, and Jared Styer will attend their high school graduation at Eagle Point High School on June 10 and then will graduate June 11 with the RCC Class of 2011.

Alberto Duran-Espino and Christopher Atkinson, who also took RCC classes while attending high school, graduated from Crater High School last year and returned this year to the RCC Electronics Department to take additional classes. They will complete their two-year AAS degrees and graduate from RCC in June.

The RCC Foundation provided funding through the Morris Family Foundation for the Crater and Eagle Point students to attend RCC. The Morris Family Foundation supports students from rural high schools who want to enroll in college career and technical educational programs. All fees, tuition, textbooks, required equipment, and software is paid for while the students are dually enrolled in high school and RCC. A combination of Morris Family Foundation dollars and scholarships continue to help support the students after graduation from high school.

The students have been completing the requirements for both high school and the RCC Electronics Technology program by attending morning classes at the RCC Table Rock Campus five days a week and then returning to high school to finish their day, according to Dave McKeen, RCC Electronics Department chair.

“In the last two terms, these dedicated students have been driving back over to take one additional course and work on their capstone projects in electronics,” McKeen said. “Final projects this year include a programmable music-making Boe Bot and a programmable automated lighting system.”

McKeen notes that Jeremy Burke of EPHS competed this year in the Skills USA competition and won first prize in the electronics area. Burke has been accepted and is planning to attend Oregon Institute of Technology in the fall, majoring in computer science engineering, according to McKeen.

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