NEWS RELEASE

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RCC preparing for 10-year accreditation evaluation

Rogue Community College will soon undergo a comprehensive evaluation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

The evaluation is part of a 10-year full-scale accreditation, which culminates this fall in a site visit from an NWCCU team. 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.

“Accreditation standards and process present an important and necessary way for the college to communicate and celebrate its achievements and to identify and address present and future challenges,” said Denise Swafford, accreditation liaison officer.

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) mission fulfillment. Once the report is completed, a team of peer evaluators appointed by the commission will visit RCC for an on-site, review and report.

The site visit is scheduled Oct. 26-28. Chief evaluator Dr. Jill A. Wakefield and her team will gather data, conduct meetings and interviews, and write a report that includes compliments, commendations, concerns and recommendations.

In accordance with NWCCU policy, RCC is required to publicly announce the scheduled visit and invite 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. NWCCU will maintain
the correspondence for a minimum of five years. For more information about RCC accreditation, including updates, visit www.roguecc.edu/accreditation.

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EDITORS: More information is available by contacting Denise Swafford, accreditation liaison officer/administrative coordinator, RCC President’s Office, at 541-956-7087 or dswafford@roguecc.edu.

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