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RCC Foundation announces new board member

The Rogue Community College Foundation announces the appointment of Grants Pass resident Yolanda Bruton to its board of directors.

Bruton’s story is inspiring. A first generation Mexican-American, Bruton had the opportunity to attend an excellent high school due to the famous Supreme Court ruling, Brown vs. Board of Education.

“I, along with other Hispanic and African American students, was bused from our barrio to attend an all-white high school in Compton, Calif., in the 1960s,” Bruton said. “I graduated fifth in a class of 500 students but was discouraged from attending college by my counselor because I was a female Mexican-American. I’m glad I didn’t listen,” Bruton said.

After attending Compton Community College while working part-time, Bruton transferred to California State University, Dominguez Hills, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree. She subsequently earned a Master of Arts in education from Southern Oregon University.

A member of the Grants Pass community since 1979, Bruton was a personnel administrator for Josephine County in the early 1980s and taught Spanish for many years at North Valley High School. She has been a member of many local organizations, including the American Association of University Women, Rogue Gateway Rotary, the Aspire Mentoring Program, the Women’s Crisis Support Team and volunteered as a GED tutor at Rogue Community College. She also served as a founding board member of the Grants Pass YMCA.

“I am thrilled to be on the RCC Foundation Board,” Bruton said. “I am very passionate about education, and it was a community college that empowered me to reach my educational goals and dreams.”

The Rogue Community College Foundation supports the college by awarding student scholarships and direct project grants in Josephine and Jackson counties. The private non-profit foundation accepts tax-deductible gifts and bequests and currently manages numerous endowments. For more information, contact the RCC Foundation at 541-956-7327 or visit www.rccfoundation.org.

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