NEWS RELEASE

RCC accreditation reaffirmed with commendations

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The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) reaffirmed accreditation Feb. 1 for Rogue Community College with commendations for the college’s mission-focused work and supportive culture.

A regional agency with accreditation authority approved by the U.S. Department of Education, NWCCU conducted a peer evaluation of the college in October after RCC staff completed a 10-year self-study. The self-study included a written report based on five new key standards: Mission, Core Themes and Expectations; Resources and Capacity; Planning, Effectiveness and Improvement; and Mission Fulfillment.

“Accreditation standards and processes provide a way for the college to communicate its mission and goals, celebrate its accomplishments, and address opportunities for improvement,” said Denise Swafford, RCC accreditation liaison officer.

Regional accreditation assures educational quality and encourages improvement through evaluations based on college mission, accepted academic standards, and public expectations. Other advantages include recognizable degrees, transferrable credit offerings and access to eligibility for federal financial aid for students. In addition, accreditation ensures the college's eligibility for state and federal grant opportunities.

The NWCCU evaluators said that RCC student success is evidenced by the unifying purpose of faculty, staff and administrators. Also recognized for excellence were the colleges’ outreach efforts, including Rogue Ambassadors, Discovery Programs, HOLA (Helping Oregon Latinos Advance) and three federally funded TRiO programs.

In addition, RCC received accolades for its various key partnerships, which serve to “keep costs low and leverage resources in a nearly seamless student environment,” the report said. The evaluators cited the “Jackson County Library, collaborative agreements with workforce development partners, and the shared use of the Higher Education Center with Southern Oregon University.”

“RCC strives to strengthen the southern Oregon region with a wide range of educational programs and training services for citizens seeking various options for employability, and for personal and professional growth,” said RCC President Peter Angstadt, who was pleased with the commission’s findings.

For more information, contact Denise Swafford, accreditation liaison, at 541-956-7087, or visit www.roguecc.edu/accreditation.

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