“Speak Up” forum seeks to inspire community involvement

MEDFORD — Rogue Community College’s Diversity Programming Board and Oregon Action are partnering to present a civic engagement forum on April 17 featuring speakers from a range of local organizations.

“Speak Up: A Day for Change, Activate – Motivate – Educate” is scheduled from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Jackson County Central Library in the Community Meeting Room 205 S. Central Ave.

The event is aimed at getting people involved in their communities through voter registration and other civic opportunities, especially young people who have not traditionally had a voice in decisions that affect their lives and futures, according to Tammi Spencer, an RCC advising assistant. Issues will include voter registration, social justice, racial equity, education, and immigration reform. Oregon Action is a broad-based, multi-racial community organization dedicated to economic justice.

Keynote speaker Francisco Lopez, executive director of CAUSA Oregon, will address the new spirit of civic engagement that is generating positive social change from diverse communities in Oregon. Lopez is a community organizer with 33 years experience in the U.S. and Latin America. CAUSA is the largest Latino human rights organization in the Northwest.

Participants also will hear from a panel of leaders representing local organizations: Kids Unlimited, Revista Caminos, Maslow Project, Lotus Rising Project, ACCESS, Occupy Medford, and several RCC and SOU student clubs. Speakers will share their stories of civic action and offer ways participants can also get engaged in their own communities and to learn about ways to create positive change in their communities.

Dinner and refreshments will be provided. RSVP by calling 541-772-4029 or 541-245-7729. For more information contact Tammi Spencer, 541-245-7559 or tspencer@roguecc.edu

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Twitter cue: Civic engagement forum April 17 aims to activate, motivate, and educate.