RCC included in higher education award

Rogue Community College and six other institutions will be honored by the National Consortium for Continuous Improvement (NCCI) in Higher Education at its annual conference in Alexandria, Va., in July.

RCC was the only community college selected. Others were American University, the California State University System, Loras College, Marist College, the University of Georgia, and the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center.

The seven are being acknowledged for their work incorporating the Excellence in Higher Education (EHE) organizational self-assessment framework in a variety of projects.

EHE was developed by Dr. Brent Ruben, executive director of the Center for Organizational Development and Leadership at Rutgers University. The process is based on Malcolm Baldrige’s National Quality Award Program and incorporates the language and culture of higher education, including standards and terminology used in accreditation.

In 2009 the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) selected the seven institutions, based on a national competition, to apply the EHE framework in a “Challenge 2010” initiative funded by the Lumina Foundation. Each institution applied the framework to improve existing practices, implement innovative new programs and ultimately promote a culture of change. RCC’s project was centered on strengthening existing practices for accreditation.

Denise Swafford, RCC accreditation liaison officer and Challenge 2010 project leader, will represent the college in accepting NCCI’s Leveraging Excellence in Higher Education (EHE) Award. Lynda Warren, former vice-president of College Services; Cheryl Markwell, former vice president of Instructional Services, and Swafford made up the Challenge 2010 team.

“The main purpose of EHE, as with the accreditation process, is to establish a practice of continuous improvement,” Swafford noted. “This was a perfectly timed opportunity for the college to grow and shine for the accreditation self-study that was completed in fall 2011.”

Findings were presented at the annual NACUBO conference in Tampa last summer. Further information on the projects has been published in NACUBO magazine and will be provided on the NCCI website at www.ncci-cu.org.

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