NEWS RELEASE

April 10, 2013

RCC tuition will increase

In the face of continuing declines in state revenue, Rogue Community College will raise tuition $4 per credit to partially offset the loss of funding in next year's budget.

The RCC Board of Education approved the tuition increase for the 2013-14 school year, which begins July 8. Tuition for in-state students will rise about 4.5 percent – from $87 to $91 per credit. Tuition cost for a full-time student taking 12 hours of credit classes will be $1,092 plus college services and technology fees. Out-of-state tuition will go from $107 to $111, and international tuition from $291 to $304. There will be no increase in fees for credit students in the coming year.

The Oregon Legislature has not yet determined state funding for community colleges for the coming year, but the proposed budget includes a Community College Support Fund of $428 million. That would translate to approximately $6.9 million for RCC.

“The Legislature’s proposed funding level is a great place to start, but it’s not enough to get us to 40-40-20,” said RCC President Peter Angstadt.

He was referring to Senate Bill 253. Passed by the 2011 Oregon Legislature, it established the most aggressive high school and college completion goals in the country. SB253 says that by 2025, at least 40 percent of adult Oregonians will have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher, 40 percent will have earned an associate’s degree or post-secondary credential, and the remaining 20 percent will have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent.

“If we’re going to achieve the goals the state has set, community colleges need more support,” Angstadt said.

Over the past 12 years, state funding for RCC has declined from 40 percent of its budget in 2000-01 to less than 15 percent currently. RCC, along with other Oregon community colleges, has been compelled to increase tuition to make up for steep declines in state support.

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Twitter cue: Faced with cuts in state support, RCC will raise tuition for coming academic year; fees remain the same.