June 11, 2013

RCC graduation ceremonies set for June 15

Rogue Community College will celebrate its 42nd annual commencement beginning at 6:30 p.m. June 15 in the Marjorie Holzgang Concert Bowl on the Redwood Campus, 3345 Redwood Hwy., Grants Pass.

The ceremony, which honors students who have completed certificates and degrees, will be followed by a reception in the Student Center hosted by RCC student government. A streaming video will be available at www.roguecc.edu.

Earlier in the day, a graduation ceremony will be held recognizing students from Jackson and Josephine counties who have earned their GEDs through the RCC Testing Centers. The GED commencement is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Concert Bowl.

At the college’s evening commencement, a record-setting 744 students will be awarded a total of 860 degrees and certificates. The previous high was 680. Graduates earned 657 two-year degrees and 203 certificates. Eighty students will receive two awards, 15 have earned three awards and two students completed four. Among the graduates, 483 (65 percent) are women and 261 (35 percent) are men. Graduates’ ages range from 18 to 74; the average age is 32.

There are 472 Jackson County and 252 Josephine County graduates, two from Douglas County, one from Klamath County, and 17 from other counties. Thirty-four students, about 4.6 percent, compiled 4.0 grade point averages, with 265 (about 37 percent) earning GPAs of 3.5 or higher. Average GPA among all grads is 3.3. Ninety-nine graduates, some 13 percent, are members of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

RCC President Peter Angstadt will present the annual Outstanding Citizen Award. Initiated in 1987, the award honors individuals who have provided distinguished service to the college and community. Past recipients are Alan DeBoer, 2006; Dean and DonnaJean Wendle, 2007; Bob and Barbara Bean, 2008; Mark Knouff, 2009; Dick Rudisile, 2010; Dr. David Trump, 2011; and Glen E. Guttormsen, 2012.

Delivering this year’s student commencement address will be Julie Townsend, who is graduating from the RCC nursing program with a 3.9 GPA. Townsend plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree with a major in nursing from Oregon Health Sciences University while working in a healthcare setting.
Representing RCC student government will be Tony Nordheim, Riverside Campus, and Bob Floyd, Redwood Campus.

Kori Bieber, vice president of Student Services, will serve as master of ceremonies. Leading the faculty procession will be retiring Business Technology instructor and coordinator Laura Ault and Electronics Technology instructor Bill Biggs. Midge Shaw, Adult Basic Skills instructor, will deliver the faculty greeting.

The GED graduation ceremony will honor the approximately 274 students from Jackson County and 85 from Josephine County who have completed their GEDs. Student speakers will be Danny Brotton, Riverside Campus; Grace Barton and Louis Martin, Redwood Campus; Carmen Hernandez, Table Rock Campus; Kristina M. Warner from Illinois Valley Learning Center, and Preston Toepper from The Job Council.

Reserved parking and seating for people with ambulatory disabilities will be available as well as sign language interpreters. Seating is limited and early arrival encouraged.

The RCC Chapter of American Association for Women in Community Colleges will hold its annual fundraiser for scholarships at the GED graduation and commencement. Members will sell single-rose bouquets, 2013 tassels and bottled water near the Concert Bowl entrance. Proceeds benefit RCC scholarships. For pre-orders contact Cindy Harboldt at 541-956-7133 or charboldt@roguecc.edu. The RCC Bookstore also will sell refreshments and souvenirs.

For more information visit www.roguecc.edu/Graduation/Commencement.asp.

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Twitter cue: RCC holding commencement (6:30 p.m.), GED graduation (11 a.m.) ceremonies June 15 at Redwood Campus.