Federal government shutdown has varying effects on RCC

Some important programs that affect community colleges will suspend operations due to the U.S. government shutdown, while others will continue largely unaffected – at least in the short term.

Services to students attending Rogue Community College may be among those affected. RCC recently received word that Oregon-based employees who work for the Veterans Administration and for the VA’s Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program have been furloughed with no timeline for return.

Other programs will continue operations, according to Kori Bieber, vice president of RCC Student Services. Most significant is the Pell Grant program because it is funded with mandatory and multiyear appropriations. Most operations of the Direct Student Loan program also will continue. Another important activity that is expected to proceed as normal is the obligation of Perkins Career and Technical Education funds to states.

Activities related to most other Department of Education programs, including SEOG, TRiO, GEARUP, Title III and Title V could be severely curtailed. As many of these are grant programs, the shutdown may not affect disbursement of funds, but Department of Education staff would not be available to provide technical assistance or other services related to these programs.

“We’re staying informed about the situation, and we will do our best to support students,” Bieber said. “We cannot act in place of our federal partners, and we do not have any special access to these systems, but our goal is to be as flexible with our own systems as possible. If services to are disrupted, RCC will do its best to support our students,” she added.

For updates, watch the RCC website: www.roguecc.edu. Or visit the Department of Education at www.ed.gov.

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