Rogue Community College Begins College Athletics Program, Joins NWAC Conference

GRANTS PASS/MEDFORD—The Rogue Community College Board of Trustees approved a college athletics program at RCC at its Nov. 18, 2014 meeting. The RCC Ospreys will join the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) and will be sanctioned to field teams in the 2015 school year. Preliminary plans are to start with soccer and cross country.

“This is a historic decision for RCC,” said Kori Bieber, vice president of student services. “We thank the Board for making this bold move and giving our students the opportunity to continue playing a sport they love. In addition, athletics increases student graduation rates as student athletes must make academic progress and get good grades to stay eligible.”

Marco Azurdia, executive director of NWAC, agreed. “College athletics provides great opportunities for student athletes to continue their athletic and more importantly their academic endeavors,” he said. “Athletic teams managed well help with engaging the community, academic retention, and enrollment for the institution, which overall helps college budgets.”

The athletics program will be funded in large part by grants and community support through the RCC Foundation. Money for instruction will not be used for athletics. “An athletics program attracts potential students,” said Peter Angstadt, president of RCC. “It will also be a source of pride for our school, our students, and the community. It can be a win for everyone.”

Rogue Community College will be in the southern division of the conference with rivals Chemeketa, Clackamas, Lane, Linn-Benton, Mt. Hood, Portland, SW Oregon, and Umpqua community colleges. NWAC sports include cross country, baseball, basketball, golf, softball, soccer, tennis, track and field, and volleyball.

The Northwest Athletic Conference is the parent organization for 35 community colleges located in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. To learn more about NWAC, visit www.nwaacc.org.