Asante Pledges $250,000 to Rogue Community College to Expand Health Professions Training

GRANTS PASS/MEDFORD—Health care is one of the fastest growing job sectors in the Rogue Valley. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects employment in health care occupations to grow by 35 percent in the next 10 years. With $8 million in matching grant funds recently approved by the state legislature, Rogue Community College is planning an expansion of its health science and health care programs and facilities to fulfill its role to train the needed health professionals of the future.

Asante has pledged $250,000 over the next three years to help support these additional training opportunities. The Asante donation will be matched by the State for a total of $500,000.

“Asante continues to be a great patron and partner,” said Peter Angstadt, president of RCC. “For many years they have provided opportunities for clinical rotations in their hospitals for our health professions students, and they also employ many of our graduates.”

“Our partnership with Rogue Community College helps address the region’s growing need to recruit, educate, and train students who will become the next generation of health care providers,” said Roy Vinyard, president and chief executive officer of Asante. “The college has been a valued partner for many years and we appreciate the school’s continued commitment to invest in the future of our community’s workforce to provide quality patient care.”

Over 350 students completed health education programs at RCC in the 2013-14 school year, and the college projects 465 students completing in 2014-15 and 494 in 2015-16—a 39.6 percent increase. Programs ranged from dental technician to paramedicine, physical therapy assistant, and massage therapy.

The college began developing plans for expansion of health science and health care programs when it received a $3.1 million Department of Labor grant in October 2012, which was followed by a grant of $1 million toward the matching State grant from the Morris Family Foundation. The RCC Foundation is accepting donations and may be contacted at 541-956-7327.

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