RCC receives major grant from Morris Family Foundation

The Morris Family Foundation has once again demonstrated its support for Rogue Community College and the RCC Foundation by pledging $200,000 a year for five years toward an RCC health science project.

“The Morris Family Foundation’s generosity will help RCC and the foundation build a health science education facility in Jackson County, aiding the college as it responds to growing regional demand for health care services,” said RCC President Peter Angstadt.

RCC plans to expand its health science training facilities in Jackson County with every dollar raised locally matched by the Oregon Legislature up to $8 million. The project will provide state-of-the-art facilities for new and existing health education programs, enhance clinical access and services delivery, provide a site for health care professional events, and make southern Oregon a leader in health care education.

“The Morris Family Foundation is very proud to participate in this health care expansion, which will enhance not only our valley’s educational capacity but also our region’s economic future,” said Executive Director Pam Murphy. “We see RCC as a dynamic ‘change maker’ and are very happy to help out. We also encourage other foundations and individuals to join us in this unique opportunity to donate and ‘match’ those funds thereby doubling the money contributed,” she added.

For many years, RCC has offered nursing programs and other health science trainings such as Nursing Assistant, Massage Therapist, Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic, Fitness Technician, and Dental Assistant. More recently, with the help of a $3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, RCC added Clinical Lab Assistant, Physical Therapy Assistant and Occupational Therapy Assistant in partnership with Lane and Linn-Benton Community Colleges, respectively, and CNA2 trainings.

“In light of the Morris Family Foundation’s $1 million grant, there is no better time than now for all our friends and supporters to help fund the health science project,” Dr. Angstadt said. “We have a window of opportunity to access the state’s matching funds, so time is of the essence.” The Morris Family Foundation has supported the college’s mission since 2006 by providing hundreds of scholarships to RCC students. In recognition of that support, RCC presented its 2013 Outstanding Citizen award to the Morris Family Foundation.

This year, in addition to its $1 million pledge for RCC’s health science project, the foundation agreed to continue funding the John and Lillian Morris Scholarship, which underwrites the educational costs of students attending from three rural Jackson County schools who also enroll in RCC career and technical programs.

“This allows high school students to earn RCC certificates and credentials toward degrees before they complete high school,” Dr. Angstadt added.

From 2009-13, a total of 545 high school students received funds through the scholarship grant. Of those, 111 earned at least 15 college credits and 29 completed a total of 39 credentials from RCC. Nine of those students earned Associate of Science degrees, while others earned certificates in dental assisting, electronics, retail management, PC microprocessor systems, and high technology studies. Others earned Career Pathways certificates in early childhood education, computer software, basic health care and more.

EDITORS: More information about plans for RCC’s proposed health science facility is available from RCC Dean of Instruction John Osbourn, School of Health and Public Service, at 541-245-7847 or josbourn@roguecc.edu. For more information about the Morris Family Foundation, contact Executive Director Pam Murphy at morrisfamilyfoundation@gmail.com.