NEWS RELEASE

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Morris Family Foundation named RCC’s Outstanding Citizen Award for second time

For the second time in two years, the Morris Family Foundation has received the Rogue Community College Outstanding Citizen Award.

Presented June 14 at the college’s 43rd annual commencement, the award was accepted by Gary Rosenberg, chair of the Morris Family Foundation Board, and Erick Lieder, Morris Family Foundation Board member. The award honors those who have provided distinguished service to the college and its community.

In addition to the hundreds of scholarships the Morris Family Foundation has provided to students over the years, the foundation recently pledged $200,000 a year for five years toward the expansion of RCC’s health sciences program. Because a major gift of this kind is unprecedented in the college’s history, it was not a difficult decision to acknowledge the Morris Family Foundation again this year, according to RCC President Peter Angstadt.

“The Morris Family Foundation believes in RCC and our students and has been working to provide the needed financial support so that our students can achieve their goals,” Angstadt said. The $1 million pledge will help RCC respond to a growing demand for regional health care services. It will be matched by the Oregon Legislature, which has designated up to $8 million in matching funds for new and updated health science facilities at RCC.

In addition to its $1 million gift, the Morris Family Foundation will continue funding the John and Lillian Morris Scholarship. Established in 2006, the scholarships gives high school students access to college credits, which allows them to earn RCC certificates and degrees on or before completing high school.

Two other scholarships funded by the foundation, the La Rue Morris and the Earl Morris scholarships, are awarded through the RCC scholarship process. La Rue Morris scholarships is given to graduating high school seniors from Butte Falls, Crater, Eagle Point and Rogue River who plan to major in a career and technical program at RCC. The Earl Morris scholarship is for returning RCC students who have graduated from a Jackson County public high school and are enrolled in a career/technical program.

Since 2008 and including the upcoming 2014-15 academic year, there have been 400 La Rue Morris scholarships and 445 Earl Morris scholarships for a total of nearly $1.3 million awarded.

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