

March 5, 2015

RCC Instructor Murphy Receives Sharon Marchant Award



Deb Murphy

GRANTS PASS, Ore.—Early Childhood Education (ECE) instructor Deb Murphy received the Sharon Marchant Achievement Award (SMA) for her exceptional achievements as a childhood educator in the region. Marchant recipients are instructors who exemplify excellence and commitment to children.

Murphy has been a highly regarded pre-school and kindergarten teacher, volunteer, and community worker in Grants Pass for over thirty years touching the lives of hundreds of youth.

She has been an instructor at RCC for over ten years – first as a part-time instructor in Early Childhood Education, then full-time for two years with grant funding. She was recently appointed to a full-time position when she was hired from a pool of qualified applicants upon the retirement of another full-time instructor in 2013.

ECE department chair, Eileen Micke-Johnson indicated, “Murphy is a strong advocate for issues affecting young children and families and for those who work with them. She has worked tirelessly on public policy issues with the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children and has attended the NAEYC Public Policy Forum in Washington, DC as an Oregon representative for the past several years. In addition, she has been strongly involved in advocacy for the library in Josephine County and has been an advocate for women’s issues as well, which directly affects children and families.”

The award was presented to Murphy at the Early Childhood Education Winter Conference Reception on February 27. She received a cash award and a plaque; and will have her name added to a perpetual plaque at Coalition for Kids Family Resource Center in Grants Pass. Vice President of Instruction Kirk Gibson said, “Deb Murphy is an absolutely wonderful part of our Early Childhood Education Department. She is, in the best sense of the words, the energizer bunny of education. I couldn’t be happier to have her on our team.”

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