

ROGUE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Matters

Spring 2017

From the President's Office

New strategic plan emerging

Under President Cathy-Kemper-Pelle's leadership, and with assistance from consultant Rick Voorhees of the Voorhees Group, a Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC) has been working to accomplish the first major steps in developing a new strategic plan for RCC.

The SPSC consists of 33 members including faculty, classified staff, students, board, foundation, executive leadership, management, and community member representatives from Jackson and Josephine counties. Specific vocabulary was set for the process to align with terminology set forth in accreditation standards (see Figure 1). The SPSC has been in an intense, focused, three-month process that will culminate on or about April 7. The intention is to share the work with the Board of Education for review and input on April 18 and then with the college-wide community at inservice on May 5 for input and next steps. A website for access to the team's work, environmental data and a Strategy Talk Blog is available for information and input at: https://staffroguecc.sharepoint.com/sites/Strateic_Planning-Research-Engagement/SitePages/Home.aspx.

- **WIG** (Wildly Important Goal) aka Core Theme: An overarching direction for the College supported by rationale derived from RCC's analysis of environmental data.
- **Objective(s)**: A course of action(s) that support(s) WIG(s).
- **Indicator(s) of Achievement**: Visible measures that provide a way to monitor progress in reaching the outcomes set forth in the WIGs.

Figure 1



Laura Bennett (l) and Diana Moynahan (r) pose with retiree Laurie Rydell. See feature articles on 2017 retirees (pg. 4).

"We're Muslims Don't Panic"

The Diversity Programming Board (DPB) is hosting an internationally-recognized hip-hop dancer, choreographer, and teacher, Amirah Sackett for two days in April. Sackett is an American Muslim and her acclaimed work is purposed to change common stereotypes about Muslim women. Cyrise Beatty, a local hip-hop teacher and performer from Ashland will be assisting Sackett. Don't miss this one-hour performance, lecture, and Q&A session in Grants Pass or Medford as follows:

- **RWC: Tues., April 18, 6-7 p.m., Rogue Auditorium.**
- **RVC: Thurs., April 19, 1 a.m. - Noon, Performance Hall/Bldg. C.**

The presentations will be followed by an optional, hour-long hip-hop dance workshop for any participants of all ages interested in learning the craft.

College employees are encouraged to attend and to invite family, friends, and students to enjoy one of these entertaining and informational sessions FREE of charge. Seating is limited. For more information about Amirah Sackett, contact Katy Wicks at kwicks@roguecc.edu, ext. 7201.



Amirah Sackett bringing an important message to RCC.

Special project grant applications available

The RCC Foundation (RCCF) is pleased to announce its 2017/18 Project Grant Application process. Special funding is set aside annually (if available) by the RCCF to support individual department project goals and needs that may not otherwise be funded.

In 2015/16, the process was not initiated because the Foundation used those funds to support the RCC bond campaign. However, in 2014/15 over 12 projects ranging from language books on tape to educational software, gym equipment, molecular models,

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2016 graduates preparing to proceed to the Bowl for their big day.

Class of 2017
The graduating class of
Rogue Community College
cordially invites you to our
46th annual commencement ceremony
Saturday • June 17, 2017 • 7:00 pm
Marjorie Holzgang Concert Bowl
RCC Redwood Campus
Founded 1970
Reception following

RecognitionMatters

Employees are encouraged to join the effort to recognize/celebrate each other in a variety of ways:

1. Extend a simple "thank you" or "good job" when applicable.
2. Log onto HR CaughtYa® site at <http://www.esurveyspro.com/s/280885/caughtya> and record an observation of an employee's good work.
3. Communicate achievements (big and small) (don't be shy) for yourself or someone else in this newsletter by contacting Denise Swafford: Ext. 7087 or dswafford@roguecc.edu.



Amy Durst

the student. Sheri rocks!"

To submit a CaughtYa® message, go to <http://www.esurveyspro.com/s/280885/caughtya>. Messages may be anonymous and are automatically emailed to the subject employee and his/her supervisor.

Durst earns graduate degree

Amy Durst, assistant to Kevin Hoff, dean, School of Health and Public Services, graduated from Western Governors University in January with a master's degree in Management and Leadership. "Amy has worked extremely hard to earn her master's degree and I am proud of her for that achievement. I look forward to working with her as she applies what she has learned to benefit the College," Hoff said.

Durst moved to Oregon from her hometown in Kentucky in 2011 and was hired as an accounting specialist for the Foundation. Later, she moved into Instructional Services as assistant to the dean (Linda Renfro) and was assigned to Teresa Rivenes when Renfro retired.

Rivenes echoed Hoff's praises saying, "I am so proud of Amy. She used her tremendous work ethic to complete her program in record time with the goal of using her

and very helpful. I always go to her with any tough student cases I am working with, and she goes above and beyond to explain the ins and outs of financial aid to both me and

education to further the work RCC is doing. I can't wait to see the great things she will accomplish with this new skill set."

In 2017 Durst was acknowledged by the Classified Association as "Employee of the Year," preceded with a nod from former president emeritus Angstadt (retired) in 2014 as a recipient of the Rogue Values Award. Last summer she represented RCC at the Oregon Institute for Leadership Development.

She earned a bachelor's in music from Western Kentucky University (WKU) and is a lifelong member of the WKU music fraternity and alumni association. When asked about her journey since graduating from WKU, Durst explained, (with her usual sense of humor) that she "did what all talented musicians do after college – got a job in retail."

She also worked at Audburn Bank (Kentucky) where she became assistant vice president and director of marketing. While there, she developed an internet product and designed the bank's first website. She also delivered basic computer training for customers so that within six months, over half of them were using the new online platform.

"I love working at RCC with a team striving to achieve mission fulfillment and sustainability," Durst said. "In addition to working with students, I appreciate the faculty and staff I have the pleasure of working with too. I look forward to every day, each new challenge, and continuous opportunities to truly make a difference."

Correction: RogueMatters, Winter 2017 featured an article about RCC's coach **Rusty Veth**. His name was spelled incorrectly in the article.



Examples of performance excellence in action reported through CaughtYa® last term:

"[David Flemming] went beyond to add names to the new printer in tutoring center and upgraded a keyboard. He was very friendly and helpful!"

"Debbie [Dice] is a pleasure to work with and is always so helpful and courteous that I want her to know that I recognize and appreciate all the hard work she has done for Allied Health and for me directly."

"... every time I interact with Sheri [Muzzioli] she is a pleasure to work with

Special Projects

(continued from page 1)

and benches were funded.

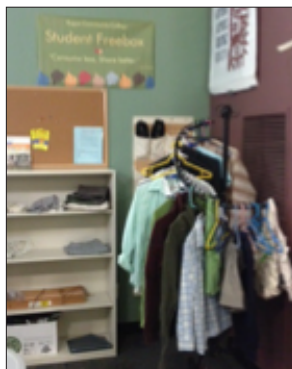
Primary consideration is given to projects that can show existing resources in the proposals and to projects that will have a great impact on student success.

This year the Foundation has \$20,000 to be disbursed for various projects in amounts (yet to be determined) based on the number and scope of requests submitted.

Applicants will be required to make a case for their requests through presentations to the RCCF subcommittee.

Applications are available from the Foundation. The deadline to submit proposals is 5 p.m., Friday, April 21, by email or hand delivery to Jodi Simons, assistant director, RCCF, jsimons@roguecc.edu, ext. 7294.

"Free Box" seeks donations



A snapshot of 'Free Box' space.

"Free Box" is a resource center at RVC, Bldg. G, designed to provide an opportunity for students and employees to pick up a jacket or other piece of donated clothing, shoes or household items, toiletries and similar things

they may not otherwise be able to afford. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to drop off or pick up donations for/from the center year-round. According to social science instructor and Sustainability Community Development Focus Award Advisor, Erika Giesen, "the purpose of Free Box is to reduce consumption and waste and to encourage and facilitate a spirit of sharing."

A January 2017 email from social science student Jesse Horrelin suggested that, "The next time you plan to drop off a box of 'stuff' at Goodwill, consider donating to Free Box." Horrelin was the designated student responsible for maintaining and monitoring the site last term.

Project responsibility is rotated to various students under the direction of Giesen. If you have any questions or would like to donate some items or help manage the space, contact Giesen at egiesen@roguecc.edu, ext. 7508.

2017 faculty awards for performance excellence

Best or most promising practice(s); innovation; student engagement; uniqueness; faculty achievement; student advocacy; inspiration; promoting global awareness; community engagement and partnership.

Figure 2

The Faculty Senate is seeking nominations from staff and students for faculty awards. The purpose is to recognize excellence in teaching and learning services in the categories listed (Figure 2). Nominees for other outstanding achievements that may not fit into one of these categories are also welcome for consideration. Things to ruminate are what the nominee has done "above and beyond," ways the nominee ensures students are engaged, or things the instructor does to be set apart from others.

In addition to recognition at inservice, award recipients will be invited to a luncheon to share information about the work they have been honored for. The process is simple. It requires one paragraph about the nominee. The paragraph should illustrate examples, anecdotes, or other observation or evidence in support of the recommendation. Nomination forms are available by contacting one of the faculty senate co-chairs: Deb Murphy, ext. 7470, dmurphy@roguecc.edu, or Jessica Kitchen, ext. 7066, jkitchen@roguecc.edu. Nominations are due by email to Murphy or Kitchen no later than 5 p.m., Friday, April 14.

Four new employees fill grant-funded and other vacancies



Dawn Westling, TRiO/EOC.

This spring two full-time employees: Dawn Westling, transition specialist (pictured), and Kathleen Bodi, administrative assistant, were hired to fill grant-funded vacancies in TRiO/Educational Opportunities

Center (EOC) and Allied Health, Southern Oregon Health Occupations Poverty Elimination Grant respectively.

In addition, a full-time employee, Michelle Moncovich, was hired to replace Rosemary Roush, office coordinator, Facilities (RVC) who retired in March, and Ethan Johnson, part-time lab technician, filled a vacancy in the Science department.

Westling is the newest transition specialist for TRiO/EOC. She has 20 years of experience with the state in human and social services, including child welfare and developmental disabilities, which EOC Director Janet Basney says, "gives her a great insight into the population the program serves." Westling is skilled in administration, investigation, training, and policy development. She is a California native, who relocated to the area about two years ago. Westling has a bachelor's in social science and a master's in Leadership and Organizational Studies. Visit Westling at RVC, G-215 or contact her at dwestling@roguecc.edu or ext. 7699.

Save-the-date: May 5 inservice



Employees engage in a retention exercise led by Cathy Kemper-Pelle at 2016 fall inservice.

Spring inservice is scheduled for Friday, May 5 from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. at RWC in the gym. All college campuses and learning centers will be closed. Coffee, tea, and water service will be available in the morning and a tostada bar will be provided for lunch.

In addition to the traditional employee recognition and retirement celebration, President Cathy Kemper-Pelle intends to provide information about the College's new strategic plan and instead of workshops in the afternoon, division meetings are planned. Association meetings will be held during lunch. For more information, contact Denise Swafford, administrative coordinator at dswafford@roguecc.edu, or ext. 7087.

2017 retirees

Laura leaving lifelong RCC career

RCC has been in operation for over 40 years and Laura Bennet, who is likely the longest-serving employee in the College's history has been part of it for 38! "I have spent my entire life and career at RCC. I have had the privilege of working for nine CAOs, all six presidents, and many staff and faculty that have made and continue to make RCC great," she said.



Laura Bennett

One of her favorite stories occurred when RCC's third president, Dr. Harvey Bennett and his wife Natasha moved to Grants Pass. Unbeknownst to Bennett, (who was his assistant) the couple had moved in right next door to her. Being aware of this, Dr. Bennett, in his mischievous way, enjoyed the uneasy look on her face when he provided her with his address for human resources and observed her realization that her new boss was living right next door.

"I am looking forward to warmer weather, hush puppies, and sweet tea."

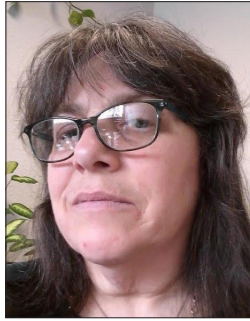
Bennett completed her associate's degree in 1980 and after about one year as student worker, she was hired for a full-time position on the switchboard. From there she progressed to intermediate secretary, administrative secretary, and dean's assistant to director, Curriculum and Scheduling where she has excelled for the past 16 years. "I've given all I have to give, tried mightily to meet every challenge given to me, and met some incredible people along the way," she said. Bennett has played a key role in ensuring the success of many academic programs as chair of the Curriculum and Academics Standards Committee. She has also served on numerous initiatives, councils, and committees and has enjoyed being part of RCC's tremendous growth. One of her proudest personal contributions was introducing and implementing the 25Live scheduling system.

Retirement plans include travelling with husband Jon. In July, they will be going to a conference in Nashville--an extension of Bennett's work with the executive board of the Josephine County Community Con-

cert Assn. The Bennetts plan to also visit Memphis, including various Civil War sites and Jonesborough (where her sister lives), the Smoky Mountains, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, and Mississippi.

She said, "I am looking forward to warmer weather, hush puppies and sweet tea!" After maintaining a rigorous work schedule and developing class schedules term after term for so many years, she added, "I do not plan to be on any schedule for the foreseeable future."

Beene bids aloha



Susi Beene

enrolled in and completed a Medical Assistant Certificate and enjoyed her studies, but soon discovered through CWE that it wasn't her niche. From CE she moved into positions as a test proctor, GED examiner/lab technician and program support specialist for Academic Skills. Beene indicated the latter "has been the most rewarding job of my life." She said there is no greater feeling than the time when a graduating student says, "Thank you" and/or, "I could not have done this without your help." She enjoys working with faculty as well as students to assist with workshops, computers, educational software and more.

Beene moved to Eugene from Los Angeles to attend school and eventually wound up taking classes in early childhood education and ceramics at Lane Community College until she heard about RCC's Horse Industries program and moved to Grants Pass where she completed the program. She describes her studies as "the best time of my life." Aside from class time, Beene said she was "required" to ride horses for 2-4 hours per day. It was "like a dream." She owned and cared for horses until 2011.

Around that time, as a testament to Beene's strength of character, she was faced with a diagnosis and battle with breast cancer. Because she was undergoing chemotherapy, she was forced to re-home the

animals that she loved. Yet, this was only one of many devastating trials in Beene's life.

For example, she was blessed with two children (Luke, age 35 and Sydney 28) from her marriage with husband Mike. During her marriage, she worked for the Forestry Dept. cooking for firefighters on fire lines around the state. However, when she was pregnant with their daughter Syd, tragedy struck and her husband died suddenly. Beene became a single mother overnight. She was overwhelmed. Despite the shock and challenge, she persevered again and maintains that one of her proudest achievements has been raising those children to be kind, successful, and responsible human beings.

Susi Beene has suffered more than her fair share of life challenges--many of them in the past six years--but, she has endured and remains positive. After 17 years at RCC, she intends to move to Hawaii or to a similar, sunnier place where she can soak up the sun, preferably near water because she enjoys boating and snorkeling. In addition to animal husbandry, her other interests include gardening and reading.

Beene expressed, "I will miss my work family desperately. Our staff has such a diverse demographic. Each and every individual is very unique and special. My memories and emotions run deep. Saying good-bye is hard."

Moynahan makes the move

Diana Moynahan's father was in the Air Force so she lived in many U.S. states, but also in Madrid, Spain. Right out of high school, she enrolled at RCC where she met her husband Tim in a business English class taught by Marie Mueller (retired/faculty emeritus). She earned an associate's in secretarial science.



Diana Moynahan

In 1988, after working for about ten years in various educational settings in Grants Pass and Kent, Washington she landed her job at RCC where she is currently the assistant to the vice president of Instructional Services. She worked for four "wonderful" people, including fellow retiree Laura Bennett and two other instructional VPs. She has also had permanent work stations on all three campuses due to the matrix management ini-

tiative and to development of the Table Rock Campus. Moynahan listed her involvement in the process to operationalize and open TRC as a highlight of her career. "It has also been a privilege to serve as recorder for Faculty Senate since its inception in 2008," she said. "It has been a positive experience assisting the Senate with their meetings and annual awards luncheon." In addition, she enjoyed collaborating with the President's Office on numerous inservice events, as well as with Student Services on Honors Night. One of her other favorite tasks has been working with what she describes as "a fun and creative group of people that annually organize the holiday celebrations for faculty and staff at RWC."

Moynahan is well known throughout the College as a skilled professional; and a competent, credible, and reliable assistant. It has been 29 years. She lightheartedly shared that "[RCC] is a great place to work with many caring, dedicated people and I will miss it, but I am still leaving."

In retirement, Moynahan plans to do some boating, camping, and gardening. She also plans to tackle some long overdue home improvement projects, starting with the kitchen. First on the agenda however, is a boating adventure on the Columbia and Snake rivers this summer, as a dry fun for a bigger trip in February 2018. At that time, the Moynahans will be travelling the Great Loop and Intracoastal Waterway for approximately one year.

O'happy day for O'Kief



Mary O'Kief pictured with Larry Mullaly at the TRC 10-year anniversary in 2016.

for Oregon Fair Share and Mullen for state senate.

She has lived in Portland, Spokane, and McCall (in Idaho). She earned a bachelor's in English (cum laude) and a master's in counseling from Gonzaga University.

O'Kief's position at RCC evolved from

Before plugging into RCC in fall 2000 as its first and only full-time, bona fide grant writer, Mary O'Kief worked for a number of non-profit agencies. She was also an alcohol counselor and campaigned

grant writer to Grants and Planning coordinator as she took on the challenge and responsibility of shepherding the College's strategic planning and assessment processes.

Together with her teams that she describes as "some of the nicest, smartest, and most creative people [she] could hope to know," O'Kief coordinated efforts resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars for the College over her 17-year career.

One of her favorite stories occurred two years ago. Her student worker identified a promising federal grant opportunity. But there were only 30 days to submit. "We knew this was crazy, but we dove in and many college partners came through for us," she said, "big time." She described "emails with pieces of the grant flying in from every direction and by some miracle the application was submitted on time." What was even more astonishing though was the day RCC received notice it had been awarded nearly \$15 million for the SOHOPE initiative. "What an effort and what a team!" she proclaimed.

Some of O'Kief's favorite work has been with the Diversity Programming Board and at TRC for the Campus Culture Committee. Last year, she coordinated TRC's 10-year anniversary celebration with yet another outstanding team of past and current employees. She has also served/serves on several community boards and was named Oregon's SBA Womens' Business Advocate of the Year in 2000.

In retirement, O'Kief intends to travel more, work on home projects, and spend time with her friends and family. She loves to sing and has been a member of the Women with Wings Choir for over 13 years. She also plays guitar and enjoys gardening, camping, snow skiing, cross-country skiing, playing with her dogs and being a grandma. "It has been gratifying to work at the College for the past 17 years," she said, "Thanks for the memories!"

Rhodes' relaxation plans

Phil Rhodes has two older brothers (Keith and Alan) and a younger sister, Carolyn. His dad worked for the Army so they lived in many states including Washington, Oklahoma, Hawaii, and California. When his dad retired the family moved to Grants Pass. Tragically; however, they lost Keith to a battle with lung cancer.

Rhodes attended and graduated from Grants Pass High School and tooled around



Phil Rhodes

in a variety of jobs before joining the National Guard. In his 21-year career with the Guard he held positions in communications, mess, and as a TOW gunner.

When he returned to civilian

duty, Rhodes went to work for an elementary school in District 7 for about 10 years before being hired to fill the position of maintenance custodian in the Facilities and Operations department in 1995. He has enjoyed the department barbecues and indicated that Grant Lagorio has been one of his favorite supervisors. He also liked being able to personally meet presidents Harvey Bennett, Rick Levine, and Peter Angstadt when he was assigned to H Building. One of the highlights of Rhodes' personal life though was when he met the Lord in 2004. And, while there are many, one of his favorite scriptures is Eph. 6:10-18, which says, in part, "Finally be strong in the Lord and his mighty power . . . and pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests..."

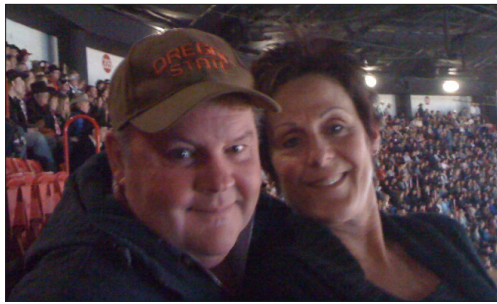
In 2011, Phil Rhodes earned certification as a Master Gardner through the Oregon State University Extension program. In addition, after taking a photography class through RCC's CE program, he became an enthusiastic photographer with an interest in nature, still life, and wildlife images. (Samples of his favorite pieces will be shared at inservice). Rhodes has also dabbled in computer and welding courses through RCC's Community Education department.

This summer he is moving to Salem where he will join his brother Alan and his mother who are living in Marion County. He is looking forward to living closer to family and delving deeper into his favorite hobbies: gardening and photography.

Simmons' salute

Jeanie Simmons' excitement about the future is evident by her enthusiasm about being a retiree, and by the gratitude and joy expressed in the information and photographs she provided for this article and the upcoming inservice celebration. There were many exclamation points in her comments as follows:

On [her] retirement plans: "travel, volun-



Jeanie Simmons pictured with husband Ray, at Pro Rodeo Cowboy finals in Las Vegas.

teer, and whatever I want!"

Greatest Accomplishment: "[her] daughter JiAna . . . by far my greatest accomplishment!"

Favorite Quote: "Always be humble and kind!" (taken from Tim McGraw).

Special Message: "take care of them!" (referring to her co-workers).

Simmons is a native Oregonian who lived in Vale and Klamath Falls before migrating to the Medford area. She graduated from Klamath Union High School.

Before joining the College in 2008 as an administrative assistant for TRiO/EOC and Talent Search, she held support staff positions at Crater and Eagle Point high schools.

Simmons expressed that her job at RCC has "by far been the most satisfying job I have held." She gushed about the team she has been working with and made arrangements for special group photos with them that will be shared at spring inservice. "I will miss them terribly. They are all wonderful people."

In 2012, Simmons was one of three employees honored at spring inservice with the Rogue Values Award. Nominees for this recognition are selected by their peers and former president emeritus Angstadt (retired) making final selections based on the individuals he believed best exemplified the spirit of the award, which is reflected in the College's core values: Excellence, Integrity, Respect, Innovation, and Stewardship.

In addition to more travelling and possibly doing some volunteer work, some of the simple pleasures Simmons plans to indulge in during her retirement include more time with her precious daughter and seven (7) "amazing grandchildren," long walks with her husband Ray, including their dog, Jack, and catching up on some good leisurely reading.

Temple taking off

Alice Temple's email offers a quote: "Everyone is fighting a battle you know nothing

about. Be kind. Always." She approaches relationships with this mindset and has a genuine empathy for others. Her No. 1 priority though is her Christian faith. She has been involved in the women's ministries at her church and through Zonta. In 2005, she was honored with the prestigious Zontian of the Year Award.

Temple earned an associate of applied science in Secretarial Science from Alfred State College, New York. That degree has afforded her a variety of positions as a legal and administrative assistant throughout her career. In 2000, she was hired for a support role at RCC with BCLS (Business and Community Learning Services). She advanced to another position in Instruction, and worked as a Veterans advisor before returning to her current position as administrative assistant, Instructional Services. She expressed that she has loved her work with students and staff alike, adding "I hope I made a difference in some small way to the many students and co-workers I have had the joy of working with in my years at RCC."

She proudly shared excerpts from performance evaluations about her "high professional standards, patience with students, dedication, efficiency, and credibility." Her favorite words came from Jim Van Brunt who said, "Alice walks on water. She is Superman with reading glasses and a NY accent," followed by genuine, positive affirmations about this impressive individual that they have all grown to appreciate in, Building F.

Alice is grateful for her time at RCC, but also for the joy of living with and caring for her older mother for many years before she passed away, and for meeting and marrying her husband Rich in 2007.

This fall, the Temples will be moving to their home in Bend. A first priority will be to find a new church home but also to spend more time with their grandchildren (Abigail, 18 mo. and Ben, age 11). As she was sadly preparing to say goodbye to her Zonta sisters, Temple learned that a club is forming in Bend of which she refers to as a "God thing." The Temples will be travelling to some of the



Alice Temple

western national parks, D.C., and Hawaii. They are also planning a Mediterranean cruise. Rich Temple is a skier, so she will likely be doing that, but also plans to push some other activities, including ballroom dancing onto the couple's agenda.

TRiO educational talent search funding renewed

The College received a continuing grant award of \$1,420,800 from the USDOE through 2020 to further the work of the TRiO Educational Talent Search (ETS) program, which is intended to improve college readiness for disadvantaged students in grades 6-12. The College's TRiO-ETS program was initiated in 2005 and is currently serving over 600 students. RCC program director, Janet Basney said, "Participants in the program have a 99 percent persistence rate in high school enrollment," and the students targeted by RCC have a post-secondary enrollment rate of 79 percent compared to the average rate of 45 percent reported by the state DOE. For more information, visit the website at www.roguecc.edu/trioets or contact Basney at jbasney@roguecc.edu or ext. 7831.

Outstanding alum award

The RCC Foundation is seeking nominations for the 2017 Outstanding Alum Award.

Previous recipients have included current RCC employees and local community and board members. Nominees must have completed a certificate or degree from RCC and exemplify one of these two criteria:

- Success in their business, profession, or other vocational endeavors.
- Success in their community through demonstration of contributions to the betterment of society.

Nominations must be received no later than April 7, 2017. The recipient will be announced at inservice and on scholarship awards night. For more information, contact Jodi Simons, assistant executive director, RCC Foundation at jsimons@roguecc.edu or ext. 7327.

Spread the word: Student scholarship applications for fall 2017 will be available June 5: foundation.roguecc.edu/node/14.

We're Muslims Don't Panic"

(continued from pg. 1)

RCC's anticipated special guest, Amirah Sackett started "We're Muslims Don't Panic" with two other dancers, Iman and Khadijah. The trio set out to educate people about hijabs (a Muslim style of dress) and to increase an understanding and tolerance for Muslims in the nation's cities and schools.



Amirah Sackett

Sackett's acclaimed work is purposed to change common stereotypes about Muslim women.

The dancers were featured in a music video produced by rapper Brother Ali titled, "Mourning in America." Based on that performance, they were acknowledged with the prestigious Sage Cowles Award for "Best Ensemble Performance." In the past year, they reached viral video fame with millions of views on multiple sites.

Sackett was one of the first female hip-hop artists to receive a famous travel/study grant that provided her with an opportunity to study and train at Hip Hop Huis in Holland. She continues to teach and perform and her acclaimed work is purposed to change common stereotypes about Muslim women. She is from Chicago where she routinely performs, but she has also been touring the U.S. by invitation. For example, she served as a guest lecturer for the Harvard University School of Education and was also selected as a Tedx speaker in New Hampshire. In addition, she participated in a cultural exchange program in Bangladesh sponsored by the U.S. State Dept. and the University of North Carolina.

Another highlight of Sackett's career includes a Midwest tour of American Muslim artists, "Caravanseri-American Voices." The Huffington Post recently featured her in an article titled "17 Muslim American Women Who Made America Great in 2016." Sackett expresses that "the hip-hop culture gives a voice to those often unheard and is a way to uplift, inspire, and bring change to those communities that need it the most."

RCCF organizing student alumni association

The Rogue Community College Foundation (RCCF) is managing a student alumni group for anyone who attended RCC. The purpose of the association is to provide a connection for old and new friends through various events throughout the year. Presently there are no events planned. However, as the association gains momentum, RCCF will begin making plans to organize a kick-off and schedule activities. Be sure to tell your graduates to stop by the RCCF table at commencement to pick up a gift and sign up if interested. For more information, go to <http://foundation.roguecc.edu/node/61foundation.roguecc.edu>, or contact Jodi Simons, assistant director, RCCF at ext. 7294 or jsimons@roguecc.edu.



Spring: Nature's wake from sleep . . . a time for flowers to flaunt.
Funom Makam (2016)

Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Location
RCCF Outstanding Alum	April 7	4 p.m. deadline	RWC, Foundation
2017 Faculty Senate Awards	April 18	5 p.m. deadline	jkitchen@roguecc.edu dmurphy@roguecc.edu
DPB: "We're Muslims, Don't Panic"	April 18 April 19	6-7 p.m. 11 a.m.-Noon	RWC, Auditorium RVC, Building C
RCCF 2017 Special Project Funding	April 21	5 p.m. deadline	RWC, Foundation
2017 Honors Night	April 21	5:30 p.m. dinner 7 p.m. ceremony	RWC Auditorium
RCCF Retiree Luncheon	May 1	Noon-1:30 p.m.	RWC North Café
Spring Inservice	May 5	8:30 - 4:30 p.m.	RWC, Gym All campuses will be closed.
RCCF Scholarship Awards	May 19 May 23	4-6 p.m. 4-6 p.m.	TRC 101 RWC Cafeteria
Commencement	June 17	7 p.m.	RWC Concert Bowl
RCCF President's Circle	July 13	5-7 p.m.	RoxyAnn Winery

RogueMatters is an internal college newsletter produced quarterly by the President's Office in collaboration with the Marketing Department. Questions, comments, corrections, and contributions should be addressed to Denise Swafford, administrative coordinator: 541-956-7087; dswafford@roguecc.edu.