Dec. 18, 2008

Avista, Oregon Community Foundation award grants to RCC

The Rogue Community College Board of Education accepted two grants Tuesday from the Oregon Community Foundation (OCI) and Avista Utilities.

OCI representative Ranee Niedermeyer presented a grant of $25,000 to RCC Discovery programs to support students with peer mentoring, child care, and transportation assistance.

Established in 1973, OCF is a statewide nonprofit organization that administers permanent charitable funds established through gifts and bequests from individuals, families, businesses and other organizations.

Steve Vincent, regional business manager for Avista Utilities, presented RCC with a $14,340 energy conservation incentive check. The award is for the new RCC/SOU Higher Education Center (HEC) in Medford, which includes numerous sustainable energy features.

“RCC and Southern Oregon University took an extraordinary leadership role regarding energy conservation with this new facility by working closely with Adroit Construction and various subcontractors,” Vincent noted. Because of those efforts, the building’s utility costs will be lower, he said.

The grant will be used to offset HEC expenses. RCC and SOU project managers plan to apply for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the Higher Education Center. The LEED program assigns points to identify sustainability levels of silver, gold and platinum certification.

In other business, the RCC Board:

• Approved the appointment of Ted Willhite to a full-time position as Business Technology instructor;

• Approved a resolution in support of the Feb. 7, Treasurers of Our Community fund raising event, coordinated by the RCC Chapter of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges.

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