# Racharzys

# **RCC Works**

Real World Jobs Guided Pathways Invent OR Banding Together The RCC Effect



Volume 1, Spring 2019

# What's inside



#### **RCC Connections magazine** Production

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# Why Community Colleges Work

I have a very long history with community colleges, starting with receiving my A.A.S. in general studies two years after high school graduation. I have been a parent of community college students, as well as part-time and full-time faculty, teaching general and environmental biology for over 25 years. The latter part of my career has focused on community college leadership, serving as a dean, vice-president, and now president. Why am I so committed to community colleges?

I know from first-hand experience the transformative power of community colleges. As a higher education institution, they are a center of advanced learning and the development of new ways to view the world. At the same time, the community college environment is less intimidating than a university. Class sizes are smaller, and there is a strong commitment to connecting students to academic, social, and personal support systems that enhance their ability to focus on their studies and be successful.

Students and the workplace have changed considerably since I attended community college. However, I believe there is one factor that has remained constant - personal connection. My own success in completing my associate degree was due to the faculty and staff who connected with me, saw my potential, and would not let me fail. When I missed eight weeks of classes my sophomore year due to illness, the dean brought my instructors together to create a plan that would ensure I made up my work and graduated on time. The dean and my instructors personally encouraged me not to give up and helped me see what was possible. My experience was not unique.

I saw this same process unfold when my daughter was a sophomore and became ill. When my son stumbled academically, I observed as community college faculty helped him see his potential and get serious about his education, a message he didn't want to hear again from mom. Both were able to successfully complete their bachelor's degrees with no debt while many of their friends attended universities for four years and graduated with debt burdens so great they were unable to purchase a home as working adults.

In my 39 years in higher education, I am always inspired by our students who start with the odds stacked against them, yet they persevere and become successful. Every day I meet students who have amazing stories: the high school dropout who summoned the courage to attend one class at a community college, found his passion for earth science, and went on to earn a Ph.D. in planetary science; or the young woman who was her father's caregiver as his life was ending, faced at age 19 with filing insurance claims, closing his business, managing his home, and still completing her degree successfully and entering a nursing program. These students, and thousands of others, have overcome obstacles most of us can barely imagine, to successfully complete an RCC credential and move into the workplace or into baccalaureate programs at universities.

How does this happen? It is the direct result of our open admissions philosophy and commitment to providing personalized quality educational experiences that result in student success. We make a personal connection with them to understand their academic, social and individual needs. Instead of expecting students to be college-ready when they step on an RCC campus, we are student-ready. We are partners with our students in preparing them for a bright future. RCC is the pathway to a successful life, right here in Southern Oregon.

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Cathy Kemper-Pelle, Ed.D. President Rogue Community College 541-956-7000



# RCC Prepares Students for



Are you or is someone you know dreaming of a new career? Rogue Community College prepares hundreds of people every year for skilled roles in the Rogue Valley workforce. If lack of skills or knowledge is holding you back from taking the next step in your career path, we can help.

Jessica Simpson and Peter Goodwill know this firsthand.

"After I got out of the Navy, I moved to the Rogue Valley and enrolled in RCC in the automotive technology program," said Jessica, a Rogue Valley native and RCC graduate. Her training led to a successful job as an auto mechanic, where she discovered a passion for auto design. Jessica decided to build on her RCC education by pursuing a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. That degree eventually led her back to the Rogue Valley, where she took a job as operations manager for Linx Technologies, a wireless components manufacturer in Merlin.

"My background was lacking electronic engineering knowledge, which I needed for my new role. My first instinct was to return to RCC and take some electronics classes. That gave me all the training I needed to not only do my job but also speak the language of electronics," Jessica said.

During her tenure as a hiring manager at Linx Technologies, Jessica got excited whenever an RCC graduate applied for a job. "We like to hire RCC graduates because, being an RCC graduate, I know for a fact what a great education they're coming to us with," she said.

Jessica is a huge believer in RCC as a training ground for real-world jobs and long-term goals. Equipped now with confidence and business acumen, thanks to RCC, Jessica recently stepped down from her role at Linx in order to pursue a real estate license and write a novel.

"RCC taught me to believe in myself," she said. "I didn't even know how an engine worked when I started the automotive program, and now I can completely repair any car you give me. Just about anything that you want to learn about, you can learn it at RCC."

# **Real World Jobs**



Peter Goodwill agrees. Two years ago, he began working as an engineering technician for Linx Technologies while he was still completing his degree in electronics technology at RCC.

"Everything I learned at RCC had some sort of application at my work," Peter said. "I would learn

things at school and the very next week put them into practice in my job. RCC's emphasis on hands-on learning and practical

knowledge very much prepared me for the work that I was doing."

Prior to enrolling in RCC, Peter worked odd jobs but felt he didn't have the skills needed to secure

a future. He knew he wanted to pursue electronics and decided to move his family from northern Idaho specifically to attend RCC and find work in his chosen field.

"I really like that RCC is a local campus and not a huge, sprawling facility," Peter said. "It's easy to get around in, yet they have

Jessica Simpson and

Peter Goodwill know

this firsthand.

a lot of professional-level equipment for hands-on learning-things you wouldn't typically find at a two-year col-

lege. And every teacher that I met at RCC had a passion for what they were teaching. That really came through in their willingness to help students."

Peter says RCC was also a wise financial decision because he was able to cover his tuition through federal student aid. "This allowed me to earn a degree and get a good job without going into debt," he said. "I'm in a better position now than I ever was before, and I feel that is largely because of the program at RCC. It allowed me to have a financial future for myself and my family."

For more information about career training programs, or how to get started at RCC, visit www.roguecc.edu/gorogue.

# Seamless Transition

# Jocksana Corona

Jocksana Corona started college at age 30. As a busy wife and mom, adding a full course load to

her daily routine was challenging at first-but she credits the RCC community for making it possible.

"RCC enabled me to build meaningful connections and support," Jocksana said. As a student

in the Human Services associate degree program, Jocksana was part of a limited enrollment cohort, meaning for three years she took classes with the same group of students, led by a select group of instructors. "The cohort format

helped me thrive academically and personally because it was like a family," she added. "They really cared about my achievement."

Jocksana performed so well at RCC that she was awarded

the Ford Family Foundation Restart Scholarship, which opened the door to a four-year university transfer. She is now pursuing her bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in Spanish at Southern Oregon University.

"I had to switch gears and prepare for the different culture of the university, which is very fast-paced and filled with much younger students," she said. She is grateful for the confidence RCC instilled in her, which is enabling her now to face the challenges of pursuing a higher degree in a more autonomous environment. "While I was a student at RCC, I received so much support from teachers, advisors, counselors and the RCC Foundation. They set me up for success."

Haley Janky had a similar experience. As a member of the RCC

"RCC was a really great starting place for me, because I was able to get more oneon-one help being at a small school."



women's soccer team, she found her support system in sports. "RCC was a really great starting place for me, because I was able to get more one-on-one help being at a small school. With coach Rusty Veth, our athletic advisor Darren Van Lehn, and of course my teammates, there was no way I could fail," Haley said.

Rusty made sure the players stayed on top of their studies and pushed them continually for excellence. Haley believes this helped her stay focused and taught her to manage her schedule well. Then when it came time to transfer to Oregon Institute of Technology for a bachelor's degree in radiologic science, Haley said Darren helped her navigate all the college requirements.

"I don't know if I would have been able to figure everything out without him," she said. "He always went above and beyond to make sure all my ducks were in a row, ensuring that I would have a smooth transition to OIT."

That transition involved not just academics but soccer as well.

"Rusty taught me what to expect in the next level of collegiate sports. He took time out of his schedule during the summer to help me train, ensuring I was prepared to play at OIT," Haley said. "Not to mention playing for RCC got me noticed by OIT's head soccer coach in the first place. I will never be able to thank Darren and Rusty enough for everything they've done for me."

What's ahead for both students? While only time will tell, both Jocksana and Haley are setting their goals high.

"I have so many 'dream' jobs, either working with children, in higher education or for a community resource center," Jocksana said. "One thing I know is that I want to work with people who have overcome adverse experiences due to drug and alcohol addiction. I plan to pursue my Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling License once I graduate from SOU. And I hope to one day work at RCC and help other students just like so many staff members helped me." Once Haley graduates from OIT, she'll spend a year completing an externship with Rogue Regional Medical Center in Medford. Afterwards, she hopes to find a good job as an X-ray technician specializing in mammography.

Both women encourage anyone considering a degree to start off strong at RCC.

"Choosing RCC over a university for the first years is a financially beneficial decision, for one thing," Haley said. "You can get many required courses completed at a fraction of the cost. So, do yourself a favor and take advantage of it as much as you can."

"There is always someone who is willing to help you," Jocksana added. "Enjoy your college journey whether you are 18, 25, 30 or 35 like me!"

For more information about RCC's transfer programs, visit us online at www.roguecc.edu/transfer, or www.roguecc.edu/TRiOSSS.

# Michelle Markus

# RCC Foundation helps student get a bead on welding

The RCC Foundation provides scholarships and inspiration to hundreds of students every year. For many of them, their path is not possible without the Foundation. Michelle Markus, a welding student, is one example.

Michelle loves welding. On the surface, it might seem a strange career choice for a female, but get to know Michelle and you'll soon discover it's the perfect trade for her. She is passionate about art, travel, and inspiring people with her work. And welding just

"It has been my lifelong dream to become a welder and create art with metal,"

so happens to encompass all of it.

"It has been my lifelong dream to become a welder and create art with metal," she said. "I enrolled in RCC to earn a degree to achieve these goals."

As a student in the Rogue Community College welding technology program, Michelle suits up in coveralls and safety glasses alongside her classmates and impresses them all with her prowess for the craft. "When I first started in the welding program it was very intimidating for me to walk into that first day of class knowing that I would be entering a classroom of only men. I remember feeling hesitation and vulnerability," she said. "Looking back that seems so silly now because I have only been treated with the utmost respect from my fellow classmates and teachers. I know that everyone who has gone through the welding program at RCC can agree that we are beyond blessed to have such amazing instructors that genuinely care for our success."

In fact, her interest in experiencing new places and cultures is one of the primary reasons Michelle was drawn to RCC's welding program. "The first thing that intrigued me about

A transplant to Southern Ore-

gon from Nebraska, Michelle is

no stranger to braving uncertain

terrain. At only 27 years old she

has already backpacked solo

through 11 countries and lived

in six different states. She moved

to the Roque

years ago and

loves it here. "I

feel extremely

able to experi-

ence Oregon

up close and

personal and

enjoy all the

beauty it has to

offer," she said.

lucky to be

Valley three

welding was the fact that there are positions where you must travel a lot for work," she said. "I always thought that was such a cool idea, to travel around to beautiful places working seasonally."

Another appealing aspect of welding is its variety. "There are so many directions you can go with the trade, many different ways to weld and a wide variety of jobs to choose from," she explained. "So I knew it would be very hard for me to get bored!"

As Michelle began learning the different techniques and processes of welding, it became clear to her that "the possibilities are literally endless," she said. "As long as you can imagine it, you can create it."

That discovery appeals to Michelle's passion for art. Her ideal career would involve a balance of hands-on labor and freedom of expression. "Wherever I end up, welding will be more than just a job," she said. "It will be an outlet to help me inspire people with art, and also provide practicality through fabrication."

Michelle is grateful for tuition assistance from the RCC Foundation, whose help has made it possible for her to receive an education that will lead to a lifelong career. Michelle received three scholarships: King Fami-

"I enrolled in RCC to earn a degree to achieve these goals." ly Endowed Scholarship; Rober & Leona DeArmond Scholarship and the Sally L. Smith Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

"The RCC Foundation has played a powerful role in my success

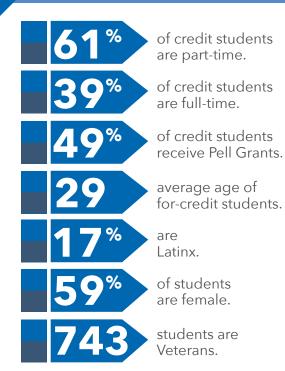
throughout my college experience," she said. "They have given me the gift of freedom-to continue my education without financial stress, and to focus more of my time and energy on school."

To learn more about RCC's welding technology program and the many scholarships available through the RCC Foundation, visit www.roguecc.edu or www.rccfoundation.org.

# Supporting our students serves all Oregonians

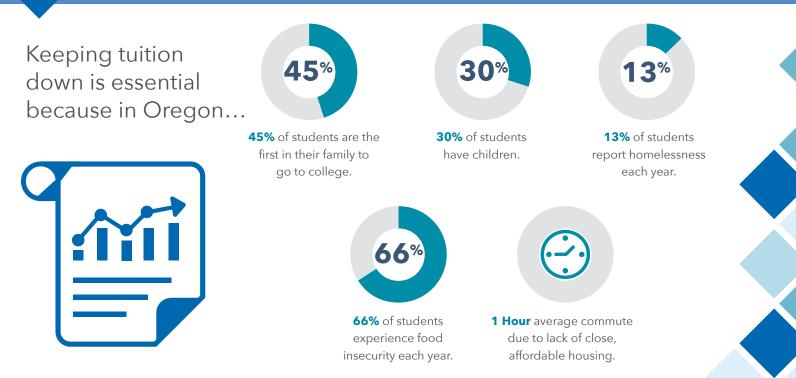
RCC

## serves over 9,000 credit and 6,000 non-credit students.





# Who are building a better future for themselves and their families.



Data provided by the Oregon Community College Association and Rogue Community College.

# Provide a Path. Provide a Purpose. Power the Future.

# With an education that leads to a career.

For Oregon students...

**55%** are working toward an Associate Degree or transfer to a 4-year university.

45%

are in Career/Technical Education and get jobs in their field. of current students are pre-college (high school students receiving college credit).

**98%** of Nursing graduates placed.

# 90%

of Microelectronics Tech graduates placed.

# 90%

of Automotive and Diesel Tech graduates placed.

## 87%

of Medical Assistants placed.

Placement data for all Oregon Community Colleges.

## But there is a gap in career training.



**65%** of the jobs in Oregon are middle skill jobs that require some college.



Oregon only has **45%** of middle skill workers to fill these jobs.



**46%** of Oregon adults 25+ do not have a post high school degree.

## We can deliver more opportunity for students.

### Commitment to funding community colleges at the state level

means more Oregonians will have access to training, filling the skills and job gaps in our region.



Accept **7,900** more students annually through Career/Technical Education programs for communities statewide in need of more skilled workers.



Provide critical student support services to **17,900** more students annually from underrepresented communities and first-generation families.

Data provided by the Oregon Community College Association and Rogue Community College.

# Provide a Path. Provide a Purpose. Power the Future.

# Southern Oregon HOPE Grant Leads to Better Paying Jobs

For many people, college is a dream that seems out of reach. Students from low-income families often can't afford tuition, which leaves them feeling stuck. Lack of education leads to fewer job opportunities, which lands people right back into the same financial struggles they grew up with.

But not anymore. Southern Oregon HOPE is breaking the cycle and giving members of our community a real chance at success. This grant-funded program covers education costs for low-income students pursuing training in an allied health care field. It provides all tuition, books, fees and supplies so students can focus on school rather than money worries.

"The financial assistance is an amazing benefit," said Lisa Parks, Southern Oregon HOPE director. "But what our team enjoys most is being able to support our students in ways they may not normally experience with other scholarships and grants. We have professionals on our team that support our students academically, emotionally, and work to troubleshoot barriers to attending school such as childcare and transportation. Our students have an entire team of people dedicated to their successes in life, in many ways."

Southern Oregon HOPE fills a need in the community by placing students in jobs where skilled workers are in short supply. For example, local health care companies are constantly seeking qualified medical assistants, phlebotomists, dental assistants, pharmacy technicians and EMTs.

"We work to connect our students with employers in our communities, for practicum experiences, job shadowing, and interviews for



jobs," Lisa said. "We know our students well and want them to be working in the best environment for themselves and their families."

Erika Mendez was one of those students. Thanks to the Southern Oregon HOPE program, she was able to transition from a lower-paying vocation in banking to a job as a dental assistant. "I knew some people who worked in dentistry and loved their job, pay, and benefits. I was wanting a change, and very much welcomed the opportunity to train in a new field," Erika said. She enrolled in RCC's dental assistant program and, after a year of training, was hired by Crisdental, which is now Advantage Dental. She says her job as an expanded functions dental assistant pays "better than most jobs in the Rogue Valley."

"I will always be very thankful to Southern Oregon HOPE for helping me return to school, and to RCC for providing a great learning environment," Erika said. "I had amazing instructors; they were extremely helpful and really cared about the success of their students. I had quite a few instructors that went above and beyond to help me, and this I was extremely appreciative of as I had not been in school since I graduated high school 18 years earlier."

In addition to teaching hard job skills, Southern Oregon HOPE also provides workshops aimed at equipping students with the soft skills needed to work in health care, such as emotional intelligence, communication skills and problem-solving. This increases their likelihood of getting a great job once they've completed their training.

"As a student in this grant, you can come out of school in under

a year with no debt, a certification in a health care field of study, and a meaningful job which can begin a pathway for future learning opportunities," Lisa said. "This impacts our entire community. Children see their parents work through school, and work to address social barriers, and work in a field that is caring for all members of our communities."

Since 2016, the Southern Oregon HOPE grant has enrolled 624 people and counting. "Our goal is to continue working to ensure our students can gain meaningful health care employment to meet the demands of the industry," Lisa said.

For more information or to apply for Southern Oregon HOPE assistance, visit us online at www.roguecc.edu/SOHOPE.

# GUIDED PATHWAYS Lead to SUCCESS



Imagine entering a maze with no map, no bread crumbs, and no clue how to get to the exit. That's how a lot of students feel about starting college. Fortunately, RCC has discovered a solution. It's called Guided Pathways.

"We help students from the very start to explore academic and career options, choose a program of study, and develop a plan or 'map' of courses needed to get from their first day of classes to graduation," said Leo Hirner, RCC vice president of Instruction. These pre-designed courses of study (Guided Pathways) help ensure students stay in school and finish their program well prepared for what's next, whether that's a transfer degree or a job.

Guided Pathways is a state-wide effort involving several community colleges throughout Oregon. RCC has been participating since spring of 2018.

Currently the college is in Phase One of the Pathways project, working hard to develop better program maps for each degree, including specific courses and measures of progress, so that students can complete their education in a reasonably short time frame and with minimal credit loss. Phase Two will involve developing better strategies to help students choose and start a path, which will primarily impact student advising. RCC is on track to make Guided Pathways available by the 2020-2021 academic year.

"Students often don't have a clear sense of what they want out of college, and as a consequence, they tend to drift through their classes without a sense of purpose, and often end up either quitting without the degree, or as a best case scenario, transferring to a university with a great many elective credits and a mountain of student loan debt," explained Verne Underwood, RCC Humanities chair.

Guided Pathways responds to this obstacle by empowering students to choose a clear academic path and pursue it—with guidance from committed instructors along the way. "This will result in higher transfer and graduation rates and lower levels of student debt, better advising, and more engaged students since they know what they want out of college and out of their classes," Verne added.

Ultimately, Guided Pathways will help students identify life goals and achieve them. For many people in our community, that means a higher education and better-paying job than previous family generations. "A college degree changes your life," Verne said. "It can interrupt a long cycle of generational poverty."

# BEYOND THE GED: Bellwether Award

Thinking about getting your GED? What if you could earn college credit at the same time and get a head start on a degree? You canwith RCC's nationally recognized Concurrent Enrollment Program.

Led by Adult Basic Skills (ABS) Department Chair Julie Rossi, the **Concurrent Enrollment Program** (CEP) sets its sights beyond the GED to preparing GED-eligible students for higher education and better job opportunities. Participating students can enroll in GED classes and college-level classes simultaneously, often with free tuition. These college-level courses are prerequisites to RCC Career Pathways programs, which train students in skills that apply to high-demand jobs in health care, business, social services, industrial technology and much more. Eligible English Language Acquisition students can also participate in the program.

"The Concurrent Enrollment Pro-

gram at Rogue Community College gives our Adult Basic Skills students a jump-start on their college and career," Julie said. "While many of these students believed

or were told they were not college material, they are now on a career pathway to a living wage or better job in our community."

In 2015, only 25 percent of adults

Julie Rossi

in Jackson County and 14 percent in Josephine County held a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to the state average of 32 percent. Yet–did you know? More than 60 percent of top priority job openings in our region require an associate degree or higher. And while hundreds of students were enrolling in RCC's Adult Basic Skills program, less than 10 percent were enrolling in college within one year of earning their GED. This left a huge skills gap for workers to participate in our local economy. RCC is working to change that.

"We recognized we needed to do a better job of educating our residents so they could fill the community's economic needs while also providing a better income and future for themselves and their families," Julie said. "What I see in students is once they experience success in our CEP classes, due to the support we give them, they believe they can do anything."

In addition to regular coursework, the Concurrent Enrollment Program teaches students how to manage certain life skills needed for staying in school and reaching career goals. Participants are required to attend special sessions where they'll learn how to complete homework assignments, map out a course schedule, and plan for a job after graduation.

"The first class I took was Psychology 101, and it was super helpful because it got me in a college

setting," said Kerrie Davis, a former CEP student who is now pursuing an associate degree in pre-professional medicine. "Once I accomplished that, I thought maybe

I could do this,



Kerri Davis

and then I took another step and I thought, wow, I can't believe I did that. And then I just kept on going!"

"The GED program is a good opportunity," Laura Quintero Anton agreed. When she enrolled in RCC's Adult Basic Studies department to earn her GED, she was invited to take some college classes through CEP. She now maintains an honors-level GPA and is working toward her associate degree in nursing. "The teachers are always trying to encourage you to be successful in your classes. They encourage you to have a better future for you and your family here."

Laura Quintero Anton

y here." 32 students have partic-

To date, 132 students have participated in the Concurrent Enroll-

ment Program, and nearly half have chosen to pursue a degree or certificate program at RCC. This is especially remarkable, considering most of these students would not have

thought college was a possibility before they discovered the program.

"I took a few classes and got A's," said Mitzi Grannis. "and I thought, 'Hey, maybe I am smart enough to do this." Mitzi finished her GED and went on to study for her associate



Mitzi Grannis

degree in education. Straight A's in her first two terms. "I don't know how I am doing it," she said, smiling and looking around the Redwood Campus tutoring center. "Actually, I do," she adds. "It's here. This tutoring center. Study groups. All the support. It's amazing. You work hard, you get a lot back."

RCC President Cathy Kemper-Pelle agreed. "Our goal is to inspire our GED students to pursue their dreams, strengthen them through support services, and transform their lives with an education that connects them to living-wage careers in our region. The results of this program have proven this goal is attainable," she said.

CEP's success recently captured attention from the Bellwether College Consortium, which granted RCC a top 10 finalist ranking for the 2019 Bellwether Award for excellence in instructional programs and services. RCC was honored at the award ceremony in February 2019 at the Community College Futures Assembly 25th anniversa-

"Our goal is to inspire our GED students to pursue their dreams..." ry meeting in San Antonio, Texas. In addition, the program has been recognized as an ACT 2019 Postsecondary Champion of Career and College Readi-

ness for the State of Oregon.

"We are truly proud of the hard work our students and staff put into making this program a success," Julie said. "To be chosen as a top 10 finalist out of over one thousand applications for the Bellwether Award is a testimony to our CEP participants' desire and ability to make a better life for themselves and the community we call home."

For more information about RCC's Concurrent Enrollment Program, please call one of the following learning centers: Riverside Campus Learning Center in Medford, (541) 245-7701; Table Rock Campus Learning Resource Center in White City, (541) 245-7820; Redwood Campus Learning Center in Grants Pass, (541) 956-7253; or the Kerby Campus Center in Kerby, (541) 956-7455.

# A thriving college expands facilities for **in-demand programs**

# Bond Update 2019



The voters of Jackson and Josephine counties recognized the need for Rogue Community College to grow and passed a \$20 million bond in 2016. Thanks to their support, and the support of many others, RCC launched a new High Tech Center in 2018, a new Fire Science Center in early 2019, and is now underway with a new Health Professions Center on its Table Rock Campus in White City and a new art instruction center on its Redwood Campus in Grants Pass.

Here are the details.

## **High Tech Center**

RCC purchased a vacant factory building adjacent to its Table Rock Campus and through a massive \$4.2 million reconstruction, the 11,800-square-foot hulk was transformed into a glittering career technical training center. It is now the regional cornerstone for high technology training in manufacturing/engineering, welding, mechatronics and other advanced skills.

Students began classes in the new facility on Monday, Sept. 24, 2018 after a big celebration with the business and education communities.

The flexible space is designed to promote skills-based learning with the newest technology. The welding lab sports an array of 20 Lincoln Welding self-filtering booths, three TIG arc welding booths and three outside booths for pipe welding.

"Our faculty and staff have worked with our industry partners to design a facility that will challenge students in an environment similar to the one they will have in the workplace," said Juliet Long, dean of career technical education. "We want to ensure that our programs are state-of-the-art and meet the needs of our students and local employers." Todd Geisbrecht, chair of the welding department, said local employers and other businesses as far away as California are looking high and low for skilled workers. "We have a shortage," he added. "Employees are at a premium, and with the advent of this building more and more people see this as a resource for them to build their skill sets."

For example, there are Amatrol production line modules for training in the development and programming of production lines. It teaches students how to program the machines and service any of the automated equipment in the valley.

Another advanced addition to the learning tools in the center is a computer numerical control (CNC) vertical milling machine, the Haas VF-2, that can be programmed to cut aluminum, titanium, steel, brass, bronze and more to exact specifications.



"You go to almost any manufacturing or machine shop in this valley and you're going to see this machine," said Stephen Foster, chair of the manufacturing technology program. RCC chose to have students train on this machine because "everybody wants someone who can operate one of these guys."

The High Tech Center was made possible by bond funds and additional funding was provided by a U.S. Economic Development Administration grant, the Morris Family Foundation, the Meyer Memorial Trust, Boise Cascade, Bill Thorndike and Medford Fabrication, Mary and Ted Warrick, Patsy Smullin, Rough & Ready Lumber Company, Jackson County and other donations to the RCC Foundation from employees of Rogue Community College.

## **Fire Science Center**

After five months of construction, Rogue Community College and Jackson County Fire District No. 3 celebrated the grand opening of the RCC/FD3 Fire Science Center on Feb. 5, 2019. The \$1 million joint project adds classroom and meeting space next to the FD3 administration building at 8383 Agate Road in White City.

"We are excited to take this next step in improving fire science training in the Rogue Valley," said Gary Heigel, chair of the RCC Emergency Services department.

The 2,600-square-foot center provides classroom and office space for the RCC Fire Science program and serves as a centralized location for affiliated fire and public safety organizations to host local and regional trainings. The center's two classrooms can be combined into one large meeting space accommodating up to 150 people. The new building is located on the southeast corner of FD3's White City Campus, which includes a training center used by RCC fire science students and professional firefighters.

"We are excited that our partnership brings added capacity to the emergency services program and we look forward to educating public safety providers throughout the region. We are thankful for the community support of this project and the vision of the RCC Board of Education, and the Fire District 3 Budget Committee and Board of Directors to enhance the regional training center," stated FD3 Division Chief Dave Blakely.

This collaborative effort between RCC and FD3 was envisioned and discussed for many years before breaking ground in August 2018. The new building is a \$1 million dollar investment between both partners. RCC allocated \$500,000 from Bond 17.69; the Fire District 3 Budget Committee and Board of Directors allocated \$500,000 from the District's Capital Project Fund. FD3 also donated the land where the building is located.

To schedule a class, meeting or conference in this facility, contact FD3 at 541-831-2715.

### **Art Instruction Center**

A new art space is coming to Rogue Community College.

Construction crews began work on Jan. 14, 2019 to revamp and reimagine the Deschutes (D) Building on the RCC Redwood Campus as a new art instruction center. The \$2 million project will be ready for students for fall term 2019.

"I want to thank the voters for supporting the bond that is enabling the renovation of the art building on the Redwood Campus," said Navarro Chandler, Dean of Instruction, General Education and Transfer. "Your decision to invest in the betterment of RCC will have long-lasting benefits for RCC students, the community of Grants Pass, and Southern Oregon."

When finished, the 6,246-squarefoot facility will be a new home for art classes in Josephine County. The building will include three large, well-lit and ergonomically designed studio classroom spaces, a well-equipped computer lab and media center, a lobby and exhibit space, and two faculty offices.

The shell of the building will be completely refitted, and the design will take full advantage of the natural light opportunities of the location. The painting, drawing, sculpture and design studios will have generous glass areas on the north and east faces, as is ideal for those media practices. Jewelry and metalsmithing will be taught in one of the classrooms.

Karl Brake, art department chair, said the college's vibrant art



programs will greatly benefit from the new space. When the RCC construction bond was passed, the decision was made to move the 2D classes and main faculty offices from the Esther Bristol Education Center in downtown Grants Pass to the Redwood Campus. "We began working with administration, the facilities department, and ORW Architecture to optimize this change for our students," he explained. Ceramics will remain downtown for both credit and Continuing Education classes.

Brake thanked everyone involved in the new space for their support. "This space, and all its furnishings and equipment, have been designed for the future so, in the decades to come, it will remain a viable and vibrant home for the visual arts at RCC."

Brake noted that "the architects came up with a wonderfully attractive entrance design." It will have a spacious awning – a practical consideration for students, who often must transport and protect large art projects in and out of the building – and an outdoor gathering and resting spot. It will be a welcoming space that serves as a destination and gathering place for RCC students. Contractor for the project is Adroit Construction.

### **Health Professions Center**

Rogue Community College broke ground March 20, 2919 on construction of a Health Professions Center at the Table Rock Campus. This state-of-the-art educational center, budgeted at \$21.25 million, will bring together RCC's clinical health care programs at one campus and streamline the pathway for local students to get into high-paying career jobs and fill a great need for health care workers in the Rogue Valley.

"RCC is excited to break ground on a regional health professions training center," said RCC President Cathy Kemper-Pelle. "It will expand our ability to meet the high demand for qualified health care workers right here in Southern Oregon, connecting local residents to great careers."

Set to open for classes in the fall of 2020, the RCC Health Professions Center will be a 35,648-square-foot teaching facility featuring the newest in health care training technology. The center will house all of the college's clinical health care programs including the associate degree nursing (ADN) program, the signature health care degree at RCC, which boasts a 100-percent placement rate for graduates. For the first time in 30 years, the RCC nursing program will have new classrooms, a basic skills lab and a high-fidelity simulation lab.

Other programs that will move into the new center are basic health care certification; dental assisting; dental hygiene; medical administrative assisting; medical assisting; medical coding specialist; pharmacy technician; phlebotomy; practical nursing (LPN) and sterile processing technician.

"Rogue Community College continues to be grateful for the opportunity to provide our community members with academic programs that meet their educational needs while also meeting the employment needs of our industry partners," said Teri Smith, dean of health and public service. "The Health Professions Center will be fully equipped with the latest technology and equipment allowing our students to be fully prepared to enter our local workforce. We are proud to have so many partners in bringing the vision of a regional health care training center to Southern Oregon, allowing us to expand opportunities for students that lead directly into living wage employment."

Architects for the project are Hennebery Eddy Architects and Kistler+Small+White. General contractor is Adroit Construction.

Funding includes \$11.7 million from bonds; \$8 million from a matching grant from the State of Oregon (IGRA0788); \$658,413 in donations to the RCC Foundation; and \$775,846 from additional sources.

"Besides helping to raise private donations, the RCC Foundation Board was very involved in promoting and helping get the bond passed, which made this health professions training center possible," said Judy Basker, executive director of the RCC Foundation. "We are grateful for their work."

Read this article and more at www.roguecommunity.net.

#### RCC thanks the following partners for financial support of the Health Professions Center:

- AllCare.
- Asante.
- Community College Workforce Development-Oregon Department of Administrative Service.
- Jackson County.
- Providence Health.
- Sid & Karen DeBoer.
- Jed & Cellia Meese.
- Nisha Jackson.
- Patsy Smullin.
- PrimeCare.
- Pat & Shirley Huyke.
- Rogue Heroes.
- Siskiyou Community Health.



# InventOR

RCC students are changing the world-one bee at a time

RCC faculty work for the success of their students, often encouraging them to participate in competitions. Here is just one example of an engineering instructor who saw an opportunity for his students.

Did you know? The global ecosystem is at risk due to a decline in the worldwide bee population. Because bees are responsible for pollinating two-thirds of the crops that feed 90 percent of the world, fewer bees means a threat to our worldwide food supply.

But not if Uriah Barrows has anything to say about it.

"When facing a serious issue such as pollinator decline, data is the single most useful tool we have to solve the problem," said the former RCC student body president, now studying physics and engineering at UC Berkeley. "It is time to look to technology to fill our gaps in knowledge and potentially find species that were thought to be extinct." Uriah, Nicholas Mantheakis and another RCC classmate formed Mission Franklini and invented a device for tracking bee populations using nonintrusive data– meaning, no bees were harmed in the process–with the intent of studying and enabling the pollinators' survival. This invention won top honors in the community college category at the 2018 InventOR Collegiate Challenge led by Portland State University.

InventOR is a statewide competition for college and university inventors and entrepreneurs, designed to encourage students to identify problems in their communities and develop solutions that can succeed as business opportunities. Undergraduate and graduate students from across the state competed for \$30,000 in prizes. Teams were scored on the quality of their idea, prototype and presentation. InventOR began in 2017 with five colleges competing, and last year the program expanded to 11 schools, including community colleges.

"There are many opportunities for engineers to create their own start-ups these days. Companies like Kickstarter make this so much easier to do than it used to be. But if you are going to do a start-up, you need to have some entrepreneurial skills as well," said James "Dusty" Rittenbach, physics instructor at Rogue Community College. Dusty encouraged his students to participate in the competition and helped guide them through the process.

"InventOR does a fantastic job by integrating the invention and the business sides of what it takes to make a start-up successful," Dusty said. "With these sorts of small businesses, it is possible for them to stay in the valley and bring in jobs with good wages."

In addition to Uriah's bee-tracking team, another group of RCC students competed with an invention that converts cars to run on hydro-



Left: Uriah Barrows (I) and Nicholas Mantheakis (r) of Mission Franklini.

Right: Blake Turner (second from left) led Team Turner.

gen. "This is significant because it's a low-cost way to get green energy into people's cars," said student inventor Blake Turner. "Anybody with a gas-powered car can buy our low-cost kit and convert their car to burn hydrogen."

Carol Dahl, executive director at the Lemelson Foundation, a lead sponsor of InventOR, believes these student innovations can make a huge impact on our state and local economy. "Invention-based businesses can be substantial contributors to Oregon's economic growth," she said. "Collegiate Challenge helps create a pathway for students across the state to see themselves as inventor entrepreneurs and change agents in their communities."

Are you a budding inventor? Do you know one? Learn how Rogue Community College can build the skills you need to pursue your passions. For more information, visit roguecc.edu.



# What does it mean for Southern Oregon?

Southern Oregon is fortunate to boast several excellent colleges and universities, each known and respected for a variety of strengths. Yet when it comes to choosing a college, students are faced with choosing one or maybe mapping out their journey from one college to another on their own. It's a tough decision and a competitive scenario for everyone involved. Imagine, then, what a local college education could look like if multiple institutions banded together to offer students the best of all worlds.

It's happening now. We call it the Southern Oregon Higher Education Consortium.

A joint effort of Rogue Community College, Klamath Community College, Oregon Tech and Southern Oregon University, this coalition is the first of its kind in the state. The Consortium, spearheaded by the four college presidents, is designed to meet

our region's changing workforce needs through innovative program partnerships and creative education solutions.



"What excites me most about this consortium is the ability of all four institutions to work together to build a regional

college-going culture that will transform our economy, strengthen families, and inspire others to pursue their dreams," said RCC President Cathy Kemper-Pelle.

The four colleges and universities have a long history of working together to meet the needs of students and employers. Together, the institutions enrolled 26,600 students in 2017-18, and conferred a total of 3,370 college or university degrees.

"We have done a very good job of working collaboratively," said SOU President Linda Schott. "We are poised



now to use our history of cooperation as the jumping-off point for a future of seamless pathways, interwoven academics and collective strength."

The four presidents and representatives from each school met in February to map out specific goals for the Consortium. These include improving students' ability to transfer seamlessly from school to school without losing credits, financial aid, or interrupting their education; as well as creating joint degree programs in which students learn from instructors on multiple campuses.

"One of our primary goals is to ensure our programs are aligned with the workforce needs of the region," RCC President Cathy Kemper-Pelle said. "An education at a Consortium school should and will lead to a job after graduation, because our programs will be zeroed in on teaching the skill sets needed to succeed with local employer opportunities."

This requires keeping a pulse on the regional economy as well as the needs of students and families throughout Southern Oregon. "Our community has a certain personality, as all communities do," Kemper-Pelle said. "The Southern Oregon Higher Education Consortium is dedicated to understanding what makes our businesses and neighborhoods tick, and providing the type and quality of education needed to help our region thrive into the future."

The economic outlook for Southern Oregon suggests more growth and demand for jobs requiring a higher education, and fewer jobs for people with a high school diploma or less. In fact, over 65 percent of jobs today require at least some college. "Together, our united effort can create pipelines for highly skilled graduates to enter the workforce and will attract new



businesses that pay living-wage salaries," said KCC President Roberto Gutierrez. "Southern Oregon will be stronger than ever before."

Consortium leaders know at least some education after high school is imperative for a healthy future. For that reason, the Consortium is focused on inspiring students and young adults to stay in college, continue their education, and experience personally fulfilling and financially rewarding careers.

"About a fifth of our young people ages 16 to 24 are not working or in school," Kemper-Pelle said. "We need to help give students a chance; they need to know what is out there for them."

Community colleges and transfer programs are an accessible, convenient and affordable way to get a degree, especially for many of our students who are the first in their family to go to college. The Consortium is committed to making higher education not only possible but also desirable and rewarding for more students in Southern Oregon.

"This joint effort is about so much more than just getting an education," Kemper-Pelle said. "It's about giving people hope."

Another benefit of the new con-

sortium is a strong voice at the state level. "Our students, industry and business partners, and our communities all ben-



efit through our collective voice for Southern Oregon - a vibrant consortium of action focused on education, workforce and regional economy," said Oregon Tech President Nagi Naganathan.

For more information about the Southern Oregon Higher Education Consortium, visit the Rogue Community College website.

# The RCC EFFECT Community college is an economic engine

Rogue Community College is an economic engine for Southern Oregon that generates more than \$239 million annually for the region's economy, according to an economic impact study released in 2017.

The analysis by Economic Modeling Specialists International, or EMSI, of Moscow, Idaho, examined data from fiscal year 2015-16 to calculate the impact of RCC's operations and student spending, as well as the higher earnings of alumni who entered the regional workforce with new skills after studying at RCC.

The study found that RCC has a significant positive impact on the region's economy, with a high return on investment for its major stakeholder groups: students, taxpayers and society. RCC's overall impact on the local business community amounts to \$239.4 million in added income, the equivalent of supporting 4,500 jobs.

In fiscal year 2015-16, RCC employed 727 part- and full-time employees, with a payroll of \$42 million, much of which was spent in the region to purchase groceries, clothing and other household goods and services. The college itself is a large-scale buyer of goods and services, spending another \$26.5 million to cover expenses for facilities, supplies and professional services.

RCC students also have a significant economic impact. In the 2016-17 academic year, RCC provided its students with \$21.5 million in financial aid, and **RCC** Veterans Services certified a net of \$5.4 million in veterans' educational benefits, according to RCC Financial Aid Office data. The EMSI study estimates that students in 2015-16 spent \$28.4 million on rent, transportation, and groceries and other household expenses, with an estimated 83 percent of those dollars staying in the region.

Wages tend to increase as students attain higher levels of education.

At the midpoint of their career, an Oregon employee with an associate's degree will earn an average of \$30,300 per year – that's \$8,400 more than someone with only a high school diploma. Over a working lifetime, this adds up to \$344,400 more in earnings.

With thousands of former RCC students employed in the Rogue Valley, former and current students generated \$159.2 million in added income for the region during the analysis year.

### **Return on investment**

In 2015-16, RCC students invested \$50 million in their education; they paid \$20.8 million to cover the cost of tuition, fees and supplies and sacrificed \$29.2 million in money they would have earned had they been working instead of learning. For every \$1 students invest in their education at RCC, they receive \$3.80 in higher earnings.

The average annual rate of return for students is 13.9 percent; this is impressive, especially when compared with the 10-year average 7.2 percent return on the U.S. stock market.

For every taxpayer dollar the state invests, Oregon gets back \$2.70 in tax revenue and public-sector savings.

Overall, for every \$1 spent on RCC, society as a whole receives \$7.90 in added state revenue and social savings. The savings come from reduced crime, lower unemployment and better health and well-being across the state.

To learn more about Economic Modeling Specialists International, or EMSI, go to www.economicmodeling.com.



# **Recognizing outstanding organizations and individuals that support education**

Each year, Rogue Community College recognizes an individual or organization with the RCC Outstanding Citizen Award.

For 2019, RCC honored Scott Chancey, program supervisor of Josephine County Transit, for his distinguished service to the college and community in providing an affordable and reliable pathway to RCC.

In the past 10 years, Chancey has ensured the affordability of the JCT services; worked with RCC to set up an easy system of verification of student status; expanded the route to Cave Junction to serve the Illinois Valley riders; maintained appropriate service access to students with disabilities, and he has contracted with a mobile app used to track bus location and arrival times. Chancey secured funding for a commuter line that connects JCT and Rogue valley Transportation District in Jackson County. Our stu-



dents can now transfer between Jackson and Josephine County to all RCC campus locations. It is a major accomplishment to move students around our entire service area!

"I too was an RCC student," Chancey said. "RCC helped me mature as a student, a young man and enter into adulthood more confident than I thought was possible."

Chancey attended RCC for two years, gaining knowledge and a study ethic, and then transferred to Southern Oregon University where he earned a degree in economics. "I definitely would not have been the student I was at SOU, or in the career I am in now without RCC, and I remain ever grateful," he said.

One student who needed an affordable way to Redwood Campus sums it up: "Without the RCC bus pass, it would not have been possible. On the bus, I saw other students from school and got a chance to interact with them outside of class. I even learned about some clubs I did not know about just from making friends with students on the bus. When I moved to Rogue River, I was still able to stay at RCC by using the commuter bus and transferring at the courthouse in Grants Pass. The bus was a big part of my experience at RCC."

### In 2018 RCC honored two organizations: AllCare Health and Carestream Health

AllCare Health is a physician-led organization leading the way to better and more cost-effective health care, serving over 50,000 Medicare and Medicaid members in Southern Oregon.

AllCare is also dedicated to giving back to their communities. In 2018, AllCare provided financial support to over 150 local organizations and programs.

At RCC, AllCare has provided scholarship and program support, and most recently they were RCC's single largest donor supporting our new Health Education Center. **Carestream Health** is a worldwide provider of medical imaging systems and other advanced manufacturing products, and a generous supporter of community and economic development.

The leadership at Carestream, Mike Donnelly and Mike Tylutki, began a remarkable relationship with RCC faculty in August 2016, which led to collaboration for enhanced current program curriculum, a new mechatronics program, a course in programmable logic controllers, and activities that prepare our students for work.

In addition, Carestream has generously donated equipment and scholarship funding to the RCC Foundation.

Read this article and more at www.roguecommunity.net.

## Rogue Community College is an Open Institution.

Rogue Community College does not discriminate in any programs, activities or employment practices on the basis of race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, disability, age, pregnancy or any other status protected under applicable federal, state or local laws.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Director of Risk Management, Sean Taggart, 541-956-7061, staggart@roguecc.edu, Redwood Campus, C bldg.

For further policy information and for a full list of regulatory specific contact persons visit the following webpage: www.roguecc.edu/nondiscrimination.

# Persons Responsible for Coordinating Title IX (gender discrimination), Title II (ADA reasonable accommodations), and Section 504 (discrimination against individuals with disabilities):

**Lead Title IX Coordinator:** Sean Taggart, 541-956-7061, staggart@roguecc.edu, Redwood Campus - C Building

Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Students: Chauncey Kieley, 541-245-7632, Riverside Campus - G 223

Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Employees: Wendy Jones, 541-956-7146, Redwood Campus - M Building

ADA Coordinator (Students): Andrew Childress, 541-245-7692, Riverside Campus - B 09

ADA Coordinator (Employees/Applicants): Kathryn Averyt, kaveryt@roguecc.edu, 541-956-7346, Redwood Campus, M-2

## **Our Values**

Integrity. Collaboration. Inclusion. Stewardship. Courage.

## **Rogue Community College Board of Education**



Claudia Sullivan Zone 1, Josephine County



Pat Fahey Zone 2, Josephine County



Shawn Hogan Zone 3, Jackson County



Patricia Ashley Zone 4, Jackson County



Kevin Talbert Zone 5, Jackson County



Roger Stokes Zone 6, Jackson County



Ron Fox Zone 7, Jackson County

# Right to Learn

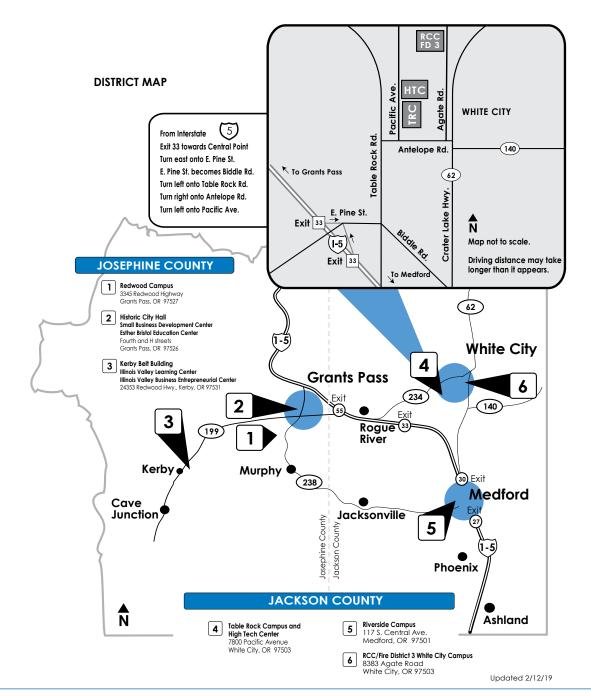


To access safe zones for confidential advice, contact Advising and Counseling:

- Redwood Campus (Grants Pass): 541-956-7306
- Riverside Campus (Medford): 541-245-7552
- Table Rock Campus (White City): 541-245-7863

RCC is committed to protecting and upholding the principles of social justice, mutual respect and tolerance to all students who desire to learn, regardless of social position.

If you are concerned about your immigration status or social position preventing you from attending Rogue Community College, please note that all RCC staff must comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) which is a federal law that requires confidentiality of students' personal information, including immigration status.



## **Campuses and centers**

#### Redwood Campus 3345 Redwood Hwy. Grants Pass, OR 97527 541-956-7500

**Riverside Campus** 114 S. Bartlett St. 117 S. Central Ave. Medford, OR 97501 541-245-7500

 Table Rock Campus

 7800 Pacific Ave.

 White City, OR 97503

 541-245-7500

Small Business Development Center Historic City Hall 214 S.W. Fourth St. Grants Pass, OR 97526 541-956-7494

#### Illinois Valley Business Entrepreneurial Center Kerby Belt Building 24353 Redwood Hwy. Kerby, OR 97531

Kerby, OR 97531 541-956-7275 Esther Bristol Education Center 350 S.W. H St. Grants Pass, OR 97526 541-956-7482

Illinois Valley Learning Center Kerby Belt Building 24353 Redwood Hwy. Kerby, OR 97531 541-956-7455

Redwood Campus Learning Center K Building 3345 Redwood Hwy. Grants Pass, OR 97527 541-956-7253 RCC/SOU Higher Education Center

101 S. Bartlett St. Medford, OR 97501 541-552-8100

**Riverside Campus** Learning Center G Building 117 S. Central Ave. Medford, OR 97501

541-245-7701

#### Workforce Training Center

7800 Pacific Ave. White City, OR 97503 541-245-7900 (800) 460-6766

RCC/Fire District 3 White City Campus 8383 Agate Road White City, OR 97503

Table Rock CampusLearning ResourceCenter7800 Pacific Ave.White City, OR 97503541-245-7820

# The RCC Foundation

Providing opportunities for student success and support for college programs, campus development, community enrichment, and faculty, staff and instructional enhancement

# The RCC Foundation Welcomes new Board Members



Medford Attorney Nick Naumes is with the firm of Frohnmayer, Deatherage et al. As a graduate of RCC, and a veteran, he has experience that makes him a great asset.

**Nick Naumes** 

A fifth generation native of the Rogue Valley, he served in the

US Navy for five years. Mr. Naumes received a certificate from the RCC Reserve Officer Law Enforcement Academy and later obtained a bachelor's with honors from SOU. He then earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence with honors from Willamette University College of Law in Salem, Oregon.

After many years working in Salem he returned to Southern Oregon. He is a supporter of the Magdalene Home for homeless pregnant teens and teen mothers.



Ian Foster was born and raised in Medford. After graduating from South Medford High School, he spent one year as a Rotary exchange student in the Slovak Republic. He graduated from Linfield College in 2005 with a degree in history. He has lived in

lan Foster

Washington, D.C., Portland and Eugene working for various campaigns and as a legislative assistant in the Oregon House.

In 2013, he completed a master's at University of Oregon in community and regional planning with a focus on land use and transportation. He was a Graduate Teaching Fellow and also served on the Board of Directors for Better Eugene Springfield Transportation.

He is back in the Rogue Valley serving as the planning director for the City of Jacksonville. He is also a member of the Medford Rogue Rotary Club.

After 29 years of training nursing professionals and serving as RCC's Nursing Department Chair, our beloved Linda Wagner is retiring.

The RCC Foundation announces the Linda Wagner Endowed Scholarship. To fund future Nursing scholarships, you're invited to donate today at www.rccfoundation.org. Or, send a check made out to the RCC Foundation with "Linda Wagner" in the memo line.

Please share with your classmates, colleagues and employers.



For questions, contact Anna Manley at 541-956-7293 or email rccfoundation@roguecc.edu



# www.rccfoundation.org



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