

Sep. 8, 2015

2015 RCC Spears Awards: Honoring Those Who Make a Difference

GRANTS PASS, Ore.--Four people and one organization have been selected to receive the 2015 Rogue Community College (RCC) Spears Awards. Now in its 15th year, the RCC Spears Awards honor volunteers and community leaders who have made significant positive contributions in education, medicine, or community service; giving their time and talent to help make Josephine County a better place.

The 2015 awardees are:

Brady Adams, Lifetime Achievement Award (Posthumous)
Doug Flow, Rogue Award for Medical Excellence
Jill Gleysteen, Illinois Excellence Award for Community Service
Nancy Hitchcock, Applegate Award for Education Excellence
Options, Marge Holzgang Community Organization Excellence Award

A special ceremony hosted by the RCC Foundation will honor the awardees. The event will be at Rogue Auditorium on the RCC Redwood campus at 3365 Redwood Hwy. in Grants Pass on Sept. 18, 2015 at 6 p.m. It is open to the public and tickets are \$50 each and include dinner and entertainment.

The dinner will be prepared as part of a barbecue cook off competition between Chubbas BBQ and Deli; My Little BBQ; Papa's Café and BBQ; Papa Terall's BBQ and Catering; Pa's BBQ; and The Flying Pig BBQ and Catering.

The event is generously sponsored by Alvin and Fay Spears; Asante; Nelson R. Maler, CFP; OBA Education Foundation; People's Bank; Roe Motors; Rough & Ready Lumber; The Glass Forge; and Welch Investment Group.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.roguecc.edu/foundation.

For information contact Cindy Harboldt at clharboldt@roguecc.edu or 541-956-7133.

About the Awardees

Brady Adams: Lifetime Achievement Award (Posthumous)

Brady Adams spent a lifetime championing Grants Pass, a city he truly loved. A former Oregon Senate president and head of Evergreen Bank in Grants Pass, Adams passed away in April following a long battle with Parkinson's. Adams's family is honored to accept the Lifetime Achievement Award in memory of their loving husband, father, and grandfather.

While in the senate, Adams was known for his staunch commitment to budget reform and reducing government spending. Yet, in addition to his success in business and politics, Adams is best remembered by the community as a tireless advocate for the arts and for nonprofits. Perhaps the most notable of these is BearFest, which Adams founded. It has since grown to a popular annual event. Adams was also a strong influence behind the city murals painted in public areas around town.

"I think everybody sees Brady as Mr. Grants Pass," says Peter Angstadt, president of RCC. "He just was a tremendous individual. We all want to be like Brady, and striving for that goal is a wonderful thing; be a Brady Adams to the best of your ability."

Beyond his presence in the community, Adams was a family man. He prioritized time with his wife and children and encouraged them to explore their passions and creativity. He taught his children to believe they were capable of great things, and he served as a role model for achievement.

"My dad was unbelievably positive guy his entire life," says his son, Ted. "If he wanted to do something, there was nothing that could stop him. And so having that positive influence in my life set me on the road to believing I could accomplish anything."

Doug Flow, PhD, Rogue Award for Medical Excellence

Doug Flow is chief executive officer of AllCare Health, formerly known as Mid Rogue IPA and Health Plan. Flow has over twenty-five years' experience in health care management, including leadership in strategic planning, operations, and administration.

As a former college professor, he takes great personal enjoyment in coaching and mentoring all who come his way, guiding people to be the best they can be. As a successful businessman, leaders in our community, including elected officials, doctors, and other professionals, rely upon him for honest and insightful guidance and advice.

"I'm here because a group of doctors had confidence in me back in 1997," Flow says. "I have an amazing staff. I am really proud and happy that we have had the opportunity to help people stay here and find meaningful and rewarding work."

As a civic-minded person, and a leader in the medical community, he took the initiative to help those who are less fortunate, making his choice to serve Medicaid and Medicare patients a deeply personal and professional quest.

"Health should be about the community," he says.

And finally, he takes great pride in the AllCare mission and works hard to improve our local health care system while offering well-paying employment opportunities close to home. It is not a coincidence that a statewide survey of employees placed AllCare Health as one of the top 30 companies to for work for in Oregon.

Jill Gleysteen: Illinois Excellence Award for Community Service

When Jill Gleysteen moved to the Grants Pass area and enrolled her children in public school, she quickly recognized a need. Many children in Josephine County, she discovered, struggled with hunger and poverty or were subject to violence, and Jill felt a tug at her heart to do something about it. So she joined the PTA.

Jill spearheaded programs to aid children who had empty stomachs and no transportation. She went door to door garnering support for the school levy and other initiatives. Eventually her passion for volunteering spread to more needs throughout the community. She joined the Rotary Club and was on the inaugural committee for the annual Duck Derby. She has since touched thousands of lives in every corner of Josephine County through her generous volunteer work. And she does it all with a smile.

As a fellow Rotary member says of Jill, "She is one of the greatest examples in our community of a selfless person that could do so many other things but just does year after year the selfless acts that make a difference and make our community a great place to live."

Nancy Hitchcock: Applegate Award for Education Excellence

Nancy Hitchcock is a prime example of the difference one person can make. For 25 years she devoted her career to education, first as a high school English teacher and then as a middle



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school media specialist, where she enjoyed the opportunity to impact young people with lasting values and life lessons.

Nancy's contributions to our community, however, reach far beyond the classroom. Over the last 25 years, she has devoted countless hours to volunteer work, serving as a visionary and tireless contributor to several important efforts such as the Literacy Council, where she serves on the board and tutors both children and adults. Nancy also spearheaded a long-term fundraising campaign to reopen our public library and now volunteers every Tuesday afternoon at the welcome desk. And as a lifelong student of culture, Nancy is heavily involved in the Sister City committee, having traveled several times to Rubtsovsk, Russia. She also enjoys hosting exchange visitors to Grants Pass.

Nancy would be the first to tell you our community is blessed with wonderful teachers and volunteers, many of whom deserve this award. She is grateful to accept this year's Applegate Award in their honor.

Options: Karla McCafferty, Executive Director: Marge Holzgang Community Organization Excellence Award

Options for Southern Oregon, a non-profit organization established in 1981, promotes recovery from mental illness and addiction through both treatment and real life practical supports. Options recognizes that mental health and addiction issues impact on many areas of an individual's life including family, work, education, housing and social connectedness.

Because of this, Options' services address a wide spectrum of potential needs for children and adults including housing and transportation, education, parenting, advocacy, community integration, crisis intervention, therapy, support groups, residential treatment and more. Known as a leader in mental healthcare, specialists from Options also provide training and consultation to other mental health service providers across the state on innovative and best practices in mental health.

Options Supported Education program, stationed at Rogue Community College, assists people with enrolling in college and in earning a certificate or degree.

Options Supported Employment is ranked as one of the best in the state at assisting individuals with mental illness to compete for jobs in the community.



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Recently Options for Southern Oregon was awarded a Tier 3 designation from the Oregon Health Authority for its Patient Centered Primary Care Home, an integrated physical health clinic within its adult mental health clinic located at Hillside Center. Options has received numerous other local and state awards for their commitment to the residents of southern Oregon. Options is pleased to add the Marge Holzgang Community Organization Excellence Award to its notable record of successes.

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