

Sept. 30, 2015

## **Rogue Community College Awarded \$14.5 million Grant from HHS**

GRANTS PASS/MEDFORD, Ore.—Rogue Community College has been awarded a five-year, \$14.5 million (\$14,597,680) demonstration grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

“This grant has the potential to change the lives of hundreds of low income people in our region,” says Genna Southworth, Dean for the School of Health and Public Service. “There has never been a program like this, which will provide access to education and training programs that may result in long-term, living wage jobs in the health care sector and includes the wrap-around support services that all too often are barriers for low-income students’ success, such as transportation and childcare.”

The grant will fund the Southern Oregon Health Occupations Poverty Elimination project (SOHOPE) and it will serve an estimated 1,100 eligible low income residents in Jackson and Josephine counties for careers in 16 high-demand, living-wage, health care fields ranging from nursing assistant and pharmacy technician to emergency medical services management (see full list below).

Individuals deemed eligible and suitable for services, including recipients of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and people at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level, will be entered into the Health Professions Opportunity Grants (HPOG) lottery. Building upon the region’s current education and training opportunities, SOHOPE will prepare participants selected by the lottery for entry-level positions and opportunities in next-level training in health care career pathways.

The project is built on RCC’s well integrated employer partnerships, such as the Rogue Valley Healthcare Workforce Steering Committee, and will ensure steady participant progress culminating in permanent, well paying employment. “It will also enable participants in safety-net programs to successfully hurdle the fiscal cliffs of income eligibility limits to reach true self-sufficiency,” Southworth said.

SOHOPE will take full advantage of existing services such as the WorkSource Oregon Center's long-standing Healthcare Cohort Project, and RCC's new co-enrollment model in which academic skills students simultaneously accelerate academic skill acquisition with skill learning in a career pathway area. Participants will receive critical support such as transportation, childcare, counseling, utility assistance, employment-related expenses, and job placement to optimize participant success. SOHOPE will also provide strong case management, academic advising and support, coaching, barrier mitigation, systems navigation, and job readiness and placement support to achieve participant success and expected program outcomes.

#### **Training Programs Will Be in These Areas**

OST(Occupational Skills Training)Certificate, Pharmacy Technician  
OST Certificate, Medical Secretary  
OST Certificate, Sterile ProcessingTechnician  
OST Certificate, Billing and CodingTechnician  
OST Certificate, Physical Therapy Aide  
OST Certificate, Emergency Room Technician  
Medical Assistant Certificate  
Nursing AssistantCertificate  
Dental Assistant Certificate  
Clinical Lab Assistant Certificate  
Phlebotomy Pathway Certificate  
Traditional Health Workers  
Licensed Massage Therapist Certificate  
Emergency Medical Technician.  
AAS,Paramedicine  
BS,Emergency Medical Services Management  
CertifiedNursing Assistant(pathway to LPN, RN)  
CNA2  
Medical Secretary Certificate(new to RCC)  
Pharmacy Tech Certificate(new to RCC)  
Medical Billing and Coding Certificate(new to RCC)  
Sterile Processing Tech Certificate(new to RCC)



Rogue Community College

NEWS RELEASE

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