

Biannual Report:

Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Compliance

Rogue Community College

Reporting Period: January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023

## **Background**

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) specifies that no institution of higher education shall be eligible to receive funds or any other form of financial assistance under any Federal program, including participation in any federally funded or guaranteed student loan program, unless the institution certifies to the Secretary of Education that the institution has adopted and has implemented a program to prevent the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol by students and employees. Pursuit to this requirement, the Department of Education General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), 34 C.F.R. Part 86 (Part 86), mandates that colleges and universities:

- Annually distribute in writing to each employee and to each student who is taking one or more classes for any type of academic credit except for continuing education units, regardless of the length of the student's program of study ("annual notification"), specific drug and alcohol prevention information outlined below, and
- Conduct a biennial review of their drug and alcohol prevention programs.

## **Biennial Review Committee Members**

- Kati Averyt – Director of Human Resources & Payroll Operations
- Michelle Gray – Counselor
- April Hamlin – Dean of Student Success
- Jamee Harrington – Vice President, People, Culture, & Safety/CHRO
- Wendy Jones – Risk Management Coordinator
- Sean Taggart – Director of Risk Management

## **Purpose of Biennial Review**

- Determine the effectiveness of the program and assess/implement any needed changes to the program; and
- Ensure that the disciplinary sanctions for violating the College's standards of conduct are enforced consistently.

## **Biennial Review Process**

- The DFSCA Biennial Report is coordinated through the Rogue Community College (RCC) Risk Management Department in collaboration with Student Learning and Success and Human Resources.

## **Materials Reviewed**

- Annual Security Report – Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act
- Campus Security Incident Reports

- DFSCA Review 2020-2021
- Rogue Community College Website

**Introduction:**

RCC submits this biannual report in accordance with the DFSCA requirements. This report outlines RCC's efforts to maintain a drug-free environment on its campuses.

**Prevention Programs:**

RCC remains committed to implementing comprehensive prevention programs to educate students, faculty, and employees about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. During the reporting period, RCC continued to offer educational opportunities, tabling events, and training sessions focused on substance abuse prevention. These programs emphasized the importance of making healthy choices and provided information on accessing resources for individuals struggling with substance abuse.

During the reporting period, the Counseling Department at RCC played a central role in organizing various prevention initiatives aimed at raising awareness about drug and alcohol abuse. These efforts included:

- **Tabling Events:** The Counseling Department hosted tabling events on campuses to engage students and provide them with information on substance abuse prevention. These events served as opportunities for students to learn about the risks associated with drug and alcohol misuse and to access resources for support. The events occurred in September of 2022 and September of 2023.
- **Presentation on Overdose (Alex's Story):** In collaboration with community partners, the Counseling Department organized a presentation titled "Overdose (Alex's Story)." This powerful presentation provided firsthand accounts of the consequences of substance abuse and underscored the importance of making healthy choices. The partnership with community organizations enhanced the impact of the event and facilitated a broader reach within the college community. This event occurred in September of 2023.
- **Increased Access to Materials:** Recognizing the importance of readily available resources, the Counseling Department expanded access to materials from local programs, including alcohol and drug services/providers and support groups. This initiative aimed to ensure that students had easy access to information and support for addressing substance abuse issues.
- **Distribution of Brochures:** The Counseling Department increased the availability of brochures on alcohol and drug awareness, drug categories, and mental health issues associated with substance abuse. These brochures served as valuable educational resources for students, providing them with essential information to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.
- **Collaboration with Community Agencies:** The Counseling Department maintained communication with multiple agencies and forged partnerships with select organizations to enhance its prevention efforts. Although some community agencies were short-staffed and unable to attend tabling events in person, they provided valuable support by sharing marketing materials and information about their programs and community outreach activities. This collaborative approach facilitated the exchange of resources and expertise, enriching the college's prevention initiatives.

The RCC Human Resources Department maintains an Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program. New employees are notified of alcohol-free and drug-free policies and programs during new employee orientation. In addition, employees are notified in writing annually, by email, of the policies and programs associated with Drug-Free Campus. The notification provided includes a link to AP 3550 Drug-Free Environment and Prevention Program, which outlines the following:

- Standards of conduct that clearly prohibit, at a minimum, the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on its property or as part of any of its activities;
- A description of the applicable legal sanctions under local, State, or Federal law for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol;
- A description of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol;
- A description of any drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, or re-entry programs that are available to employees and;
- A clear statement that RCC will impose disciplinary sanctions on students and employees (consistent with local, State, and Federal law), and a description of those sanctions, up to and including expulsion or termination of employment and referral for prosecution, for violations of the standards of conduct required in the first bullet of this section. For the purpose of this section, a disciplinary sanction may include the completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program.

#### **Policy Enforcement:**

RCC upholds strict policies regarding drug and alcohol use on campus. Any violations of this policy are addressed promptly and in accordance with RCC's disciplinary procedures. Additionally, RCC collaborates with local law enforcement agencies to ensure the enforcement of drug-related laws on campus when necessary.

#### **Support Services:**

RCC recognizes the importance of providing support services to individuals affected by substance abuse. The college offers counseling services and referrals to community resources for students, faculty, and employees seeking assistance with substance abuse issues. These support services aim to promote recovery and assist individuals in overcoming challenges related to drug and alcohol misuse.

#### **Awareness Campaigns:**

Throughout the reporting period, RCC conducted awareness campaigns to promote a drug-free environment and encourage responsible decision-making. These campaigns utilized various communication channels, including social media, posters, and campus events, to disseminate information about the risks associated with drug and alcohol abuse. Additionally, RCC collaborated with student organizations and community partners to amplify the reach of these campaigns and engage a broader audience.

#### **Evaluation and Assessment:**

RCC regularly evaluates the effectiveness of its drug prevention efforts. This data-driven approach enables RCC to continuously refine its strategies and tailor interventions to address the evolving needs

of the college community. As part of that evaluation and assessment process, weaknesses and goals are identified.

#### Weaknesses

- RCC does not currently have a process in place to measure outcomes in order to determine the effectiveness of alcohol and drug abuse prevention and education programs.
- While RCC does actively promote online alcohol and drug awareness training for employees through a third-party training platform called Vector Solutions, additional outreach and prevention education programs and events are limited.
- Students receive information initially through New Student Orientation, which in the past has been voluntary. This process should be mandatory to meet the program requirements.

#### Goals

- Conduct an on-campus information and outreach event in coordination with community and college resources/partners.
- Improve distribution procedures that will ensure active delivery of drug and alcohol prevention program materials to all employees at the beginning of each academic quarter.
- Devise a plan to maintain records that are readily accessible for verification and inclusion in the biennial report.
- Develop a process for determining and tracking the number of employees and students who have requested support services for alcohol or drug abuse or that have been sanctioned or arrested for alcohol or drug abuse on campus.
- Develop a process to survey all current students and employees to better understand the scope of alcohol and drug abuse faced by our students and employees.

#### **Conclusion:**

RCC remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting a drug-free environment and fostering a culture of wellness and responsibility. Through proactive prevention efforts, stringent policy enforcement, comprehensive support services, and targeted awareness campaigns, RCC strives to create a safe and supportive community for all members. RCC will continue to prioritize these initiatives in the pursuit of its mission to empower individuals to achieve their academic and personal goals.