

Local News

RCC Named "Opportunity College" by Carnegie Classifications of Higher Education



As the nation celebrates Community College Month, Rogue Community College has even more reason to celebrate.

RCC was named the only community college in Oregon to receive the Opportunity College and University designation by the Carnegie Classifications. This recognition highlights RCC as a model institution for advancing student success.

The designation is part of the new Student Access and Earnings Classification, released this month by the Carnegie Foundation and American Council on Education. The classification uses federal data to assess how well colleges reflect the demographics of their communities and how their graduates' earnings compare to peers -- highlighting institutions that drive access and upward mobility.

RCC falls under the 2025 Mixed Associate Medium classification, comprising 265 institutions or about 7% of US colleges and universities. In Oregon, only two other institutions -- both private universities -- received this distinction.

In total, 479 institutions nationwide -- roughly 16% of those classified -- were designated as Opportunity Colleges and Universities. These institutions combine high levels of access with strong outcomes, particularly in student earnings, making them exemplary models for equitable student success.

The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education is the leading framework for recognizing and describing institutional diversity in US Higher Education. The Carnegie