

LATEST EDITION

Grant's Pass Tribune



Home » News Desk

Rogue Community College Earns National Recognition as Opportunity College

Kelly J Gonzales

April 25, 2025 — Updated: April 25, 2025 — **NEWS DESK** No Comments 4 Mins Read



Rogue Community College Earns National Recognition as Opportunity College

Grants Pass, OR (April 24, 2025) — In a major milestone for local education, Rogue Community College (RCC) has been recognized as the only community college in Oregon to receive the prestigious “Opportunity College and University” designation from the Carnegie Classifications. The announcement comes during Community College Month, marking a proud moment for the institution and reaffirming its role as a leader in advancing educational access and economic mobility in Southern Oregon.

This new classification, known as the *Student Access and Earnings Classification*, was introduced in April by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the American Council on Education (ACE). It identifies colleges and universities that not only reflect the demographic diversity of their surrounding communities but also produce strong outcomes in terms of graduate earnings compared to peers. RCC was one of just 479 institutions nationwide—roughly 16% of those classified—to earn this distinction, setting it apart as a national model for equitable student success.

In Oregon, RCC joins only two other institutions—both private universities—in receiving the Opportunity College designation. As the only community college in the state to make the list, RCC’s inclusion highlights its commitment to removing barriers and offering pathways to meaningful careers for students in Jackson and Josephine counties.

RCC is classified under the 2025 “Mixed Associate Medium” category, a group comprising 265 institutions, or about 7% of all U.S. colleges and universities. Institutions in this category are recognized for blending transfer-oriented associate degree programs with career and technical training, a hallmark of RCC’s flexible, student-centered educational model.

“Being recognized as an Opportunity College reinforces RCC’s success in providing high-quality, accessible education that meets the needs of our students and our region,” said Juliet Long, Vice President of Student Learning and Success at RCC. “We’re proud to be part of each student’s educational journey, helping them build new skills and

move forward on the path to meaningful careers and lifelong learning. This designation highlights the impact of our work and our ongoing commitment to the community we serve.”

The Carnegie Foundation’s methodology considers both access and outcomes, drawing from federal data to analyze how closely an institution’s student population reflects the demographics of its region, and how well students fare in terms of income after graduation. The goal is to identify institutions that deliver not just open doors, but real, measurable opportunity.

The recognition comes at a time when community colleges nationwide are working to adapt to changing workforce demands, rising tuition costs, and increased scrutiny on higher education’s return on investment. For RCC, the designation affirms its long-standing mission: to provide accessible, affordable education that transforms lives and supports regional economic development.

The Opportunity College designation also shines a spotlight on RCC’s efforts to support students both in and out of the classroom. From offering robust financial aid and student services to maintaining strong partnerships with local employers, the college has demonstrated a deep investment in student success at every level.

The broader Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, first developed in 1973, serves as the nation’s most widely used framework for understanding institutional diversity in U.S. higher education. It is updated periodically to reflect changes in the sector, with the most recent update released in 2025. The next classification update is scheduled for 2028.

With more than 1,600 member colleges and universities, the American Council on Education collaborates with the Carnegie Foundation to ensure that classifications reflect the evolving landscape of education, with a focus on public policy, research, and equity.

As RCC celebrates this honor, it continues to look ahead—toward future innovation, expanded programming, and continued dedication to student achievement. The message is clear: opportunity isn't just a goal at RCC—it's a promise, backed by results.

SUPPORT FREE SPEECH - Advertise with The Grants Pass Tribune!

Stand with us in defending freedom of the press and the 1st Amendment! The Grants Pass Tribune is facing political persecution, with lawsuits aimed at silencing our bold investigative journalism. We remain committed to uncovering the truth and keeping our community informed like never before.

Show your support for independent journalism and the fight against political tyranny. Place your ad with us and align your business with the values of free speech and transparency.

Grants Pass Tribune®[GET STARTED](#)

KEEP READING

Southern Oregon Celebrates Cinco de Mayo with Festivities, Flavor, and History

Laurel Avenue to Close Temporarily for Emergency Culvert Replacement

Letter from the Editor: Understanding and Managing Fidgeting and Picking Behaviors

Florence Gears Up for 118th Annual Rhododendron Festival: “Rhodies on the River” Promises Four Days of Family Fun