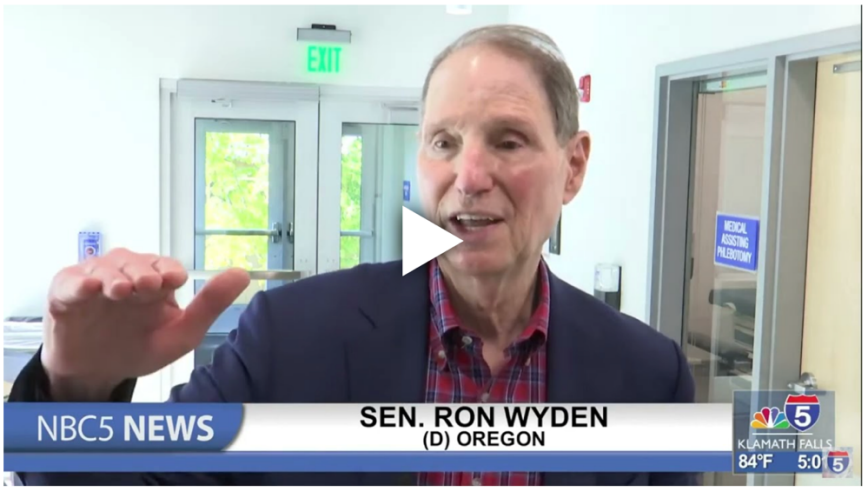
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Sen. Wyden tours new health facility at RCC Redwood Campus

GRANTS PASS, Ore. – A federal investment in a new health training facility at Rogue Community College's (RCC) Redwood Campus will be an "economic magnet" for the region, Sen. Ron Wyden said during a tour Monday.

Wyden, D-Ore., met with RCC President Randy Weber, Ed.D., and other staff to see the newly renovated E building, which will significantly expand allied health training opportunities in Josephine County. The $3.95 million remodel was made possible through $3.615 million in congressional appropriations funding secured with the support of Wyden and Sen. Jeff Merkley.



Ron Wyden points to a nurses' training station for taking blood during the tour of a new health training facility opening this school year.



Senator Ron Wyden (D) Oregon, talks with staff in the hallway of the new facility in building E, formally the Elk building.

"This is a huge boost to the rural economy," Wyden said. "Picture it in Southern Oregon, if you and your loved ones don't have their health, pretty hard to do anything else. This is going to make a big difference to keep people in the community safer." Wyden highlighted the facility's potential to create entry-level positions in the healthcare field, allowing for "scaffolding" where students can advance their careers. He noted that healthcare employment is growing dramatically in Oregon and across the country.



The new facility will house four healthcare training programs: dental assisting, assisting, nursing assistant, and phlebotomy, beginning this fall. For years, most of RCC's healthcare programs were held at the Table Rock Campus in White City, with limited offerings at the Redwood Campus. The E building, formerly a science building, was completely renovated to support the growing demand for healthcare professionals in the Rogue Valley. Wyden added that the facility puts rural Oregon "on the right side of history for the economy of the future."

The training facility officially opens with a ribbon cutting on August 26th.

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