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RCC dual enrollment saved high schoolers $3M in tuition fees

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JACKSON AND JOSEPHINE COUNTIES, Ore. - Rogue Community College served 10,247 students during 2025-26 as demand continued to grow for career and technical education, workforce training and transfer programs.

The college released its first Annual Report to the Community on Sept. 22, highlighting record enrollment growth, improved student outcomes and expanded workforce programs. The report, called Opportunity Starts Here, is available at the college's website.

"Our growth reflects the increasing number of students who are choosing RCC to build careers, transfer to universities and create new opportunities for themselves and their families," RCC President Randy Weber said. "At the same time, our partnerships across Southern Oregon are helping us respond to the needs of our communities and employers."

The college saw a 30% increase in combined graduation and transfer rates following investments in student success. RCC awarded 479 career and technical education certificates during the year, compared with 424 the previous year.

The college expanded access to healthcare education in Josephine County with the renovation of the Redwood Campus E Building, which opened in August 2025. The facility now supports training in medical assisting, nursing assisting, dental assisting and phlebotomy.

In April 2025, RCC became the only public college or university in Oregon to receive the Carnegie Foundation's Opportunity College and University designation. The recognition reflects the college's student demographics and graduates' earnings compared with peers.

Through its Early College and dual enrollment partnerships with more than a dozen Southern Oregon high schools, students earned 20,343 college credits and 42 associate degrees during the year. Participating families saved more than $3 million in tuition costs.

The RCC Foundation awarded $929,133 in scholarships to 320 students during 2025-26, with an average award of $3,000. Institutional data shows students who receive an average Foundation scholarship are associated with an 11.1% increase in student retention.

Partnerships with Asante and Providence supported more than 2,800 hours of clinical and practicum experience for students in nursing, medical assisting, phlebotomy and surgical technology. At the RCC Dental Hygiene Clinic, students provided care during 300 patient visits while gaining hands-on clinical experience under faculty supervision.

The college is building new Transportation Technology Centers at the Redwood and Table Rock campuses. Beginning in fall 2027, the redesigned transportation technology program will give students in both counties access to automotive and diesel training.

RCC expects to have nearly 150 nursing students in fall 2026, more than twice the typical cohort size of 60. The college is expanding simulation-based learning in nursing to help address growing enrollment and limited clinical placement opportunities.