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RCC partners up to launch diagnostic imaging program

- Kaleb Clark
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JACKSON and JOSEPHINE COUNTIES, Ore. - Rogue Community College and Linn-Benton Community College are teaming up to launch a Diagnostic Imaging program in Southern Oregon.

The program creates a local pathway for students to earn an Associate of Applied Science degree and train as radiologic technologists without leaving the area. Students in Jackson and Josephine counties will complete prerequisite coursework through RCC before applying to LBCC's special admission program as part of a Southern Oregon cohort.

Once admitted, students will take online classes through LBCC and complete hands-on clinical training at Asante and other healthcare settings throughout Southern Oregon. Radiologic technologists use specialized imaging equipment to produce X-rays that help doctors diagnose and treat injuries and disease.

"This partnership creates a pathway into a high-wage, high-demand healthcare career that is urgently needed in Southern Oregon," Rusty Riis said. Riis is the dean of healthcare and education at RCC. "By beginning at RCC, continuing through LBCC, and completing clinical experiences close to home, students can advance their

careers while helping meet the workforce needs of healthcare providers throughout our region."

The two-year program combines live virtual instruction, online coursework, lab experiences and hands-on clinical training. Students should plan for about 40 hours per week of program participation. Clinical training opportunities will be available in the Grants Pass and Medford areas, though travel requirements may vary throughout the program.

"Radiologic technologists play an important role in patient care and diagnosis, and there is a need for trained professionals in communities throughout Oregon," Rick Goranflo said. Goranflo is the dean of healthcare programs at LBCC.

Students will develop skills in radiographic procedures, patient positioning and care, radiation safety, imaging technology and professional communication. After finishing the program, graduates will earn an Associate of Applied Science degree from LBCC and be prepared to pursue certification through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

Radiography can also provide a foundation for advanced imaging specialties such as computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging and mammography. Students interested in the program can start by completing required prerequisite coursework at RCC before applying to the LBCC special admission program.