Southwestern Partners with Industry

Southwestern introduces new Forestry Degree

**Background:** Southwestern Oregon Community College has approved a new Associate of Science (AS) degree with a forestry emphasis. The program starts Fall Term 2014. The college offered a forestry degree through the early 2000s, but funding cuts forced closure of the program. In the years since, regional timber industry employers have found it challenging to hire sufficient numbers of trained forestry professionals to replace retiring employees and support the growing complexities and demands of the industry. To help provide those workers, the college has worked in coordination with the industry and Oregon State University (OSU) to create a transferable forestry degree program. OSU has recently approved a course-by-course articulation—the first such agreement between the OSU Professional Program in Forestry and a community college and we are excited to be able to offer it here at Southwestern.

**Program benefits**

- A student who completes Southwestern’s forestry degree program would be able to transfer to OSU as a junior directly into OSU’s Pro school forestry program ultimately leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry. The articulation agreement ensures that all credits and coursework completed at Southwestern will be accepted by OSU.
- Graduates will have industry specific skills to obtain summer, seasonal and/or permanent employment.

**Additional goals**

- Creation of a permanent faculty position for instruction, and further development of curriculum and partnerships within the industry.
- Creation of an articulated AS degree with natural resources emphasis (wildlife, recreation, fisheries) in partnership with Oregon State University.

**Long-term program sustainability**

- After two years of program development, the college will build the position into the annual budget. After two years and with a target enrollment of 20 students annually achieved, the program will be sustainably funded going forward through tuition, fees and state reimbursement on a FTE basis per student.

**How can you help?**

The college is seeking assistance with two years of start-up funding – $160,000 – for the faculty position, which will require an individual with a forestry or natural resources background and related Master of Science degree. Contact the SWOCC Foundation to discuss giving options.

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Southwestern Oregon Community College is an equal opportunity employer and educator. The Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public foundation organized exclusively for the purpose of supporting higher education in connection with Southwestern Oregon Community College.