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Mercy Flights, Rogue Community College plan on expanding high school program

By: Luke Doten
Sep 9, 2024



PHOENIX, Ore. – Rogue Community College and Mercy Flights are looking to expand their partnership with Phoenix High School. The three combined to offer the first Intro to EMS course at Phoenix High School this fall.

Students that complete the course get college credit while learning emergency medical skills. Rogue Community College's Department Chair for Emergency Services, Rusty Riis, told NewsWatch 12 that the country is seeing a shortage of emergency medical workers.

"A lot of the workers that were in these fields, they left and did not come back," Riis said. "The shortage is here."

Skilled people in the Rogue Valley often get offers from agencies or departments outside of the area. Riis hopes that this course will stir interests in the fields locally and build up the pool of workers close to home.

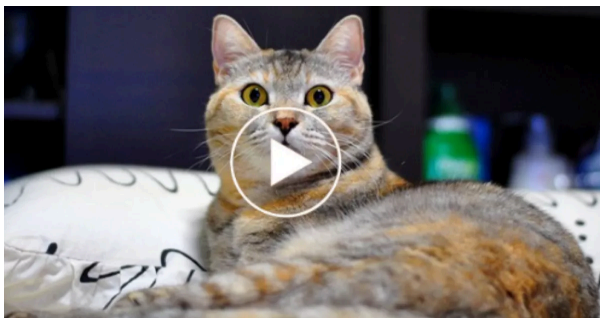
"We are constantly looking to be creative and think outside the box to try to meet that workforce demand and collaborate with our high school partners," Riis said.



Phoenix High School, Mercy Flights offering EMS class

NewsWatch 12 also reached out to Mercy Flights about potential plans to expand this course. In a statement to NewsWatch 12, Mercy flights said “Mercy Flights plans to expand the Intro to EMS course to other schools and districts as a career and technical education offering in the future. Our hope is to partner with schools to bring more College Now courses with an EMS focus to their students.”

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