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## Rogue Community College sees spike in student enrollment

By: Rocky Walker

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NewsWatch 12 has the details.

JACKSON COUNTY, Ore. -- Four years after the COVID-19 pandemic started, community colleges in Oregon are starting to see increases in enrollment.

Rogue Community College is seeing student levels increase, inching closer to pre-pandemic levels. RCC saw enrollment increase nearly 19% from the 2022-2023 school year to the 2023-2024 school year. This is 14% more than statewide community college numbers, which have increased 5% in the same time period.

"We are witnessing a strong comeback from the pandemic, with overall enrollment numbers nearing pre-pandemic levels," Randy Weber, RCC's president, said in a news release. "Career and workforce program enrollments are reaching all-time highs."

RCC has seen a 50% increase in enrollment in the past two years, with a nearly 25% increase in the past two fall terms alone. Weber says they're seeing the school's dedication come to fruition as they come closer to pre-pandemic numbers of students.

Weber also said this increase boosts the local economy, adding nearly a \$250,000 bonus to local students' lifetime earnings, and hundreds of millions to the local economy.



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