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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Local non-profit steps up to continue development of the Rogue Innovation Hub

[Grants Pass, Oregon:] Local non-profit organization, Common Connections, spearheaded by Executive Director, Cat Bonney, has stepped up to assume the lead on the continued development of the Rogue Innovation Hub (RIH).

The latest program casualty of resource restructuring at Rogue Community College, The Rogue Innovation Hub program had barely started collaborative discussions between the newly hired RIH Director and local educators when the financial stresses of the COVID-19 global pandemic brought the novice program to a halt.

A local community volunteer and one of the early supporters of the "makerspace" idea that came to be known as Rogue Innovation Hub, Dennis Dreher, is now a board member of Common Connections and is the Coordinator for the Rogue Innovation Hub Steering Committee.

"The [Rogue Innovation Hub] project remains a worthy experiment in economic development, perhaps especially in a time of sudden high unemployment and there are many of us in the community that are not willing to let this downturn kill this project. We also know the City remains eager to continue the project in partnership with a new administrative unit and we are anxious to make this happen."

Currently, the last remnant of RCC's connection to the project, The Rogue Innovation Hub Idea Center, is still located within RCC's Esther Bristol Education Center at 214 SW 4th Street but is not accessible to the public due to pandemic restrictions. The future location of the RIH Idea Center is in negotiations.

About Common Connections

Common Connections, a local 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was founded by community participants of the final Ford Family Foundation Leadership Program cohort in 2016. Common Connections facilitates development of projects and programs that serve our community in unique ways. Our mission is to cultivate a stronger rural community by facilitating skill-building, education, mentorship and volunteer opportunities that achieve community-cooperative solutions.

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