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Summit Aims to Advance Rogue Valley Health, Wellness, Education

CENTRAL POINT, ORE. – Improving student performance and advancing a culture of health and wellness will be the emphasis for a first-of-its kind summit for the Rogue Valley. A broad spectrum of community leaders are coming together for the Learning Connection Summit at Central Point Elementary School on Thursday, October 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This event invites leaders from the private and public sectors to come together and strengthen local networks, stimulate action and support the link between health and education. Discussion will include school and worksite wellness, community nutrition, physical activity and school nutrition innovations.

“Advancing a culture of wellness in the Rogue Valley will help improve student achievement and contribute to the vitality and health of our region,” said Cheryl Kirk, Nutrition Instructor for Family and Community Health/SNAP-Ed, Oregon State University Extension. “This will help get our community thinking about what we can all do as individuals and collectively to make a positive difference.”

Summit participants will include elected officials, superintendents, teachers, city staff, health system administrators, business leaders and local farmers. All will be asked to commit to advance school and community wellness with time and resources over the next year and beyond. Regional media is invited to attend and cover any part of the event.

This effort was originally prompted by registered dietitian nutritionists from the Oregon Dairy and Nutrition Council. Two years ago, the Council organized a similar gathering in Tillamook. This led to the Tillamook County Commission declaring a “Year of Wellness,” yielding positive changes in individuals, businesses, schools and organizations. Following on that success, Umatilla followed suit with a summit of their own.

In addition to the Oregon Dairy and Nutrition Council, the Rogue Valley Learning Connection Summit is supported by Central Point School District, Oregon State University Extension, AllCare Health, Rogue Creamery, and Oregon Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs.

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