Clackamas Community College expo lets youth explore career options

More than 50 businesses and organizations will take part in the Clackamas Youth Career Expo at Clackamas Community College from 8:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, Feb. 25, in the Randall Gym.

The event is scheduled in conjunction with the 38th annual Clackamas Regional Skills Competition, bringing about 1,500 high school students to the college to compete in academic and technical skills contests. CCC provides tuition waivers as prizes for students excelling in each competition.

Competitions taking place include: building construction, accounting, criminal justice, foreign languages, welding and visual arts.

CCC partners with C-TEC Youth Services, the Clackamas Education Service District and the Clackamas Workforce Partnership to host the Clackamas Youth Career Expo. The expo provides an opportunity to talk to employers, explore a wide range of career fields and get information about colleges and training programs. The expo is open to youth up to 24 years old.

Youth can talk directly with employers like Boeing, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Legacy Meridian, Marquis Companies, Home Depot, Blount International, Enoch Manufacturing and the U.S. Forest Service about careers in their industry, while exploring education and training programs to help them prepare and be competitive as they enter the workforce. Clackamas Community College will provide campus tours and college placement testing.

This year’s expo will include a “speed networking” session, hosted by the Oregon City Chamber of Commerce, to allow students to start honing their professional networking skills.

The expo has attracted a wide range of employers across the spectrum of health care, manufacturing, technology, retail, trades and military. WorkSource Clackamas will be available to help youth register in iMatch Skills, use career exploration websites, and start the process to earn the National Career Readiness Certification.

The Clackamas Regional Skills Competition is a collaboration between CCC and the Clackamas Education Service District. The Skills competition is open to high school students in public, private, charter and home schools and offers opportunities to compete and gain information about programs at the college. The top three winners in most competitions will win tuition waivers for up to 12 credits at CCC.

Competitions are scheduled across the Oregon City campus, and daytime CCC classes are canceled for Skills. In addition to the academic and career-technical competition, Skills features:

n The Senior Incentive program for high school seniors who plan to attend CCC in the fall. Participating seniors can earn a four-credit tuition waiver for summer 2016.

n Placement testing for students who plan to attend CCC. These will take place in the Testing Center in Rook Hall from 9 to 11 a.m.

For more information regarding the Clackamas Youth Career Expo, contact Emily Rico at 503-594-3960 or emily.rico@clackamas.edu.