

LOCALNEWS

RRCC commencement is Friday

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Surrounded by their classmates, family, friends, and faculty and staff of Rainy River Community College, 91 students will receive a degree, diploma, or certificate Friday.

Rainy River Community College will conduct a commencement ceremony at 1 p.m. on Friday in the RRCC gymnasium. A reception in honor of the graduates will follow.

Nine of the 91 students graduated after fall semester; five are earning more than one credential; and 29 are graduating from their respective high school through the Post Secondary Enrollment Options program.

In addition, 19 students are graduating from Itasca Community College with their practical nursing diploma.

Welcoming the 2014 graduating class will be RRCC Dean Elena Favela. Maria Peluso, Minnesota State College and University Board of Trustees, will provide greetings and congratulations on behalf of MnSCU Chancellor Steven Rosenstone.

Sue Collins, president of the Northeast Higher Education District, will provide the president's greeting and present the diplomas, along with Tim Anderson, Rainy River Community College Foundation president and Favela.

Carol Church, Itasca Community College nursing program director, will

Rainy River Community College Graduates of 2014

Logen Amundsen	Lindsey Granrud	Fred Perard
Jaylene Anderson	Kylie Harala	Delaney Peters
Amy Auran	Bryan Hasbargen	Jason Pumper
Brandon Barras	Cole Hennen-Wrabek	Sydney Raboin
Alicia Beckel	Blair Johnson	Ian Rautio
Bailey Bernard	Megan Klemetsen	Derek Riley
Ashley Birnie	Courtney Klow	Jessica Ringhofer
Drew Birss	Kathleen Klow	Emma Rud
Jennifer Bjorkquist	Marcus Koelami	Sierra Ruelle
Courtney Branham	Ashley Kostiuik	James Sauser-Denesia
Katlyn Briggs	Joseph LaPointe	Jacqueline Scholler
Alisha Brinker	Jodi Larson	Laverne Schrock
Kendra Charrois	Chelsey Linder	Michelle Schrock
Paige Christianson	Brett Lucek	Jeffrey Shermoen
Benjamin Churilla	Cassidy Manninen	Brandon Shofner
Rachel Clark	Megan Markuson	Breanna Shofner
Lynda Cottrell	Adam Mathews	Tracy Sinclair
Brandi Cronk	Michelle Merklung	Alana St. Clair
Marissa Crowe	Melissa Mesdag	Chad Stafne
Rebecca Dilley	Marissa Meyer	Savanna Stratton
Taylor Dixon	Victoria Meyer	Gino Strebing
Oashaja Dobie	Serina Moss	Jessica Taillefer
Hailey Fentem	Karen Murray	Abigayle Thompson
Warren Fisher	Blake Museta	Taylor Vinar
Fedner Fleurant	Andrew Nichols	Bailey Vollom
Jerry Forbes	Sofia Olesen	Ashley Wakelin
Branden Foster	Katelyn Olson	Kathryn West
Ginger Freden	Jonathan Palay	Chandra Wiley
Skye Fuller	Robert Parrish	Josiah Zupke
Fulton Casey	Robert Parrish	
Whitney Gearhart	Jacinda Parslow	
	Kristen Penner	

Itasca Community College (RRCC Cohort) Practical Nursing Graduates of 2014

Ayan Abdalle	Colleen Dunbar	Yvonne Quaicoe
Rita Agbosu	Markayne Harris	Harlan Schauer
Brima Bangura	Ontiri Karnuah	Brianna Snyder
Tessia Ben	Ontiri Momanyi	Jessica Taillefer
Emmaculate Bih	Benson Nganga	Tatjana Von Klein
Bennie Davies	Gladys Nyuamutta	
Tellie Dorley	Katelyn Olson	

present the diplomas to the RRCC cohort of the ICC practical nursing program.

The processional and recessional will be provided by the Rainy Lake Community Orchestra and the Rainy River Community College Student Senate members will greet and usher guests.

ACT on Alzheimer's gathers information

KAO STAFF REPORT

The number of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias is rapidly increasing. In response, the greater International Falls area is joining other Minnesota communities in preparing to respond through a statewide collaborative called ACT on Alzheimer's.

Residents are invited to learn more about the ACT on Alzheimer's initiative at a community meeting on Thursday, May 15. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at Backus Community Center, 900 Fifth Street.

"We have recently been invited to join in a statewide collaboration called ACT on Alzheimer's," said Douglas Skrief, Koochiching Aging Options' executive director. "The eventual goal is to create supports that allow people to live in place for as long as possible. At this introductory meeting, we will talk about the social, financial and personal impacts of dementia and invite attendees to volunteer time to the project."

As part of this work, participants will identify gaps in services and act to improve the quality of life in Borderland, Skrief explained.

"Join this conversation leading to compassionate response to a disease that will affect one in three by the age of 85," said Myrna

Meadows who will facilitate the meetings and help organize the effort.

"Memory loss is part of aging but dementia is a disease. It affects not only the person, their friends and family, but every other interaction, no matter how small," she said. "In a dementia-friendly community, residents know what resources are available and help neighbors access them."

In addition to raising awareness and reducing the stigma associated with Alzheimer's, the action team will be trained to survey key sectors of the community, including employers, health care providers, legal and financial planners and others, helping to identify changes that can make Greater International Falls safe, informed and respectful of all those affected by dementia, explained Meadows.

More than 60 organizations in Minnesota are partners in ACT on Alzheimer's, dedicated to preparing Minnesota for the future and to creating supportive communities for persons and families touched by Alzheimer's Disease and dementia. More information is available at www.actonalz.org. Those with questions about Thursday's event may call Skrief at Koochiching Aging Options at 283-7084.

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