

HERMISTON HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER Capital Construction Information

BMCC began planning for the new Hermiston Higher Education Center five years ago initially in response to the pressing need for increased classroom capacity at the Hermiston site, particularly for teaching laboratory science classes required for the AAOT degree and nursing prerequisites. Borrowing science classroom space from Hermiston High School to teach night classes, as BMCC has been doing for many years, is no longer an adequate solution.

From that initial impetus, the Hermiston Higher Education Center project has grown in concept over the years, and the Center is now being designed to create an appropriate building that reflects the college's growing presence in the region, the changing needs of the student population, and the region's need for access to the full continuum of postsecondary education. The City of Hermiston has donated 6.7 acres across the street from the current BMCC-Hermiston location for the Hermiston Higher Education Center. The Center will provide not only the necessary facilities for physical and life sciences, smart multipurpose classrooms, and administrative and faculty offices, but also important spaces completely lacking in BMCC's Hermiston location, Columbia Hall—such as comfortable, inviting areas for student study and socialization. The intent is to create a college-campus feeling at the Hermiston site, with the Hermiston Higher Education Center serving as the new “front door” to the campus that beckons and welcomes students and that provides a visual link and safe pedestrian access to Columbia Hall across the street.

Project Description

The range of expanded educational programs and opportunities that the Center will support includes BMCC's offerings—adult basic skills (adult high school diploma, general education development/GED, English as a second language/ESL), college preparation [remedial courses], community education courses, career technical certificates, associate's degrees, and workforce training programs—and baccalaureate, graduate, and professional development programs offered by EOU and potentially other university partners. The expanded baccalaureate offerings will enable both traditional and non-traditional students to pursue an affordable baccalaureate degree on site after graduating from BMCC. EOU currently offers nine full degree programs in Hermiston that combine on-line and on-site instruction. EOU will continue offering those degrees and plans to add on-site bachelor's degree programs in liberal studies, business, and education. EOU also offers an on-line master of science in education degree at BMCC-Hermiston and plans to add a master of arts in teaching and a master's degree in business administration once the Center is completed. These and other graduate and professional development programs at the Center will allow residents to receive, in a more convenient, less expensive local setting, training necessary for career development and advancement.

The Center will include two science laboratories, multipurpose classrooms, a computer laboratory, offices for instructors and staff members, a reception and waiting area, a testing center, a conference room, advising and tutoring spaces, a student commons, student resource areas, and staff support areas. While many classes will be offered in conventional face-to-face classroom environments, the new building also will greatly increase the capacity of BMCC-Hermiston both to import and to export additional classes through state-of-the-art distance education technologies to and from other BMCC locations and to and from other sites around the state, the nation, and the world.

Updated project start and completion dates

BMCC engaged an architectural firm, Mahlum, in December 2009 and intends for the building to be completed in July 2011 and open for students in September 2011.

Financial Information including overall project costs

Overall project costs are \$8,494,700