



DENNIS BAILEY-FOUGNIER, PRESIDENT
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May 14, 2020

RE: Phase I County Reopenings

Students,

Governor Brown announced earlier today that Umatilla, Morrow, Baker, Union, Wallowa, and Grant counties (all of the counties in which we provide some level of service) have been approved for Phase I of reopening amidst COVID-19 restrictions. While this is exciting – we’ll finally be able to get haircuts and eat at a restaurant again – I want to clarify what this actually means for BMCC.

Essentially, BMCC will continue to operate in the way that it has been for the past couple of months. Higher education in Oregon has its own Executive Order from the Governor that remains in place, and prohibits our abilities to offer in-person instruction and service.

Our classes and services will remain remote, as will the majority of our employees. The Parade of Graduates will still take the place of our traditional commencement ceremony on June 11. Summer term, as well as fall term, will also continue in remote formats. If the Governor’s Executive Order for higher education is modified or ends as we enter fall term, we may allow some CTE hands-on learning and instruction to take place in person as is appropriate.

I want to emphasize that all plans are subject to change depending upon what happens in our communities related to phased reopening and public health. Moving to the next phase of reopening requires counties to meet certain strict requirements, and there’s always the unfortunate possibility of a resurgence of COVID-19 that could resume restrictions and halt the reopening process. BMCC keeps the health and safety of its employees and students a top priority in decision-making.

I will continue to update you as we learn more. For now, thank you for your continued flexibility and resilience, and especially for choosing BMCC!

Sincerely,
Dennis Bailey-Fougner
President

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