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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BMCC Grant County facility damaged by fire

JOHN DAY, Ore. – The Grant County Education Service District, which houses courses for the region for Blue Mountain Community College, was severely damaged during a fire on the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 16. While the cause of the fire has yet to be determined, BMCC officials in John Day and the main campus in Pendleton are working together to assess the damages and determine interim needs related to classrooms, offices, communication and technology. Classes are still expected to begin as scheduled in two weeks.

The fire began at around 10 p.m., and no one was in the building at the time. Fire and police officials continue to investigate the incident.

“This is a very unfortunate and tragic incident, and I’m relieved we didn’t have any injuries or people in danger at any time,” said BMCC President Cam Preus.

BMCC has approximately 20 students registered for classes at its Grant County facility, which is also home to a satellite facility for Eastern Oregon University. BMCC has three courses set to begin in the fall term, including Math 90 and Writing 121 – both of which are held via iTV from BMCC’s Milton-Freewater campus – and an EMT course.

President Preus said Grant County ESD is working with BMCC and EOU to bring in modular buildings as temporary solutions for those organizations, as well as its own services for schools. BMCC sent a message to staff and students earlier today to notify them of the situation and provide assurances regarding fall term classes. Courses that were to take place at the Grant County ESD building will still be available, but may be moved to a different location or delivery method. The Office of Instruction at BMCC is in the process of determining the best way to accommodate students.

BMCC is working closely with Ashley Masterson-Armichardy, BMCC Grant County Coordinator, to make sure BMCC is able to continue assisting students with fall term preparation, testing, advising and registration needs.

Until communication and phone lines have been restored at the BMCC Grant County location, students may contact the Pendleton campus Service Center at (541) 278-5759 or the Student Success Center at (541)278-5853.

More information will be released as it becomes available.

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