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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## BMCC partnership with OSU Extension to allow further study of canola

PENDLETON, Ore. – The BMCC Agriculture Department has teamed up with Oregon State University Extension and the University of Idaho to further study Canola varieties and production techniques in irrigated Canola.

Don Wysocki, a soil scientist for the OSU Extension Service, asked Dave Grimes, a BMCC lab technician, and Preston Winn, chair of BMCC's Agriculture Department, in the spring if it would be possible to run an irrigated trial of canola on land at the BMCC Ag lab. Winn's response was a resounding "YES." The partnership with OSU will help decrease the cost of the trials as well as provide a good training aid for students enrolled in the BMCC agriculture program.

Students will have the opportunity to observe canola production from start to finish and see it each day as they walk to their labs. The land plot used is small, but will save the OSU researcher about \$800 in rental fees due to the cooperative effort with BMCC. The University of Idaho provided seed for the trial plot which will benefit growers throughout the Northwest.

Soils in the Pendleton area are ideal for the plot due to their similarity with many other soils throughout the Northwest where canola will be produced.

Cooperation and collaboration with educational partners is something that is not new to the BMCC Agriculture Department. Past experiments have included organic trials by Mary Corp, the Outreach and Engagement Regional Administrator for the Upper Columbia Basin for the OSU Extension Service. There are also trial plots of grass varieties that are ongoing at the agriculture lab. Other partnerships that exist include one with RDO Equipment, which is providing two newer tractors for use during two labs in the Tractors class and Plant Science class at BMCC. These tractors will also be available for use in the spring for the Ag Machinery class.

The BMCC agriculture lab is a community resource used for education and the improvement of agricultural practices around Umatilla and Morrow counties, as well as other areas of the Northwest.

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