



CAMILLE PREUS, PRESIDENT  
BMCC PENDLETON  
2411 NW CARDEN  
PO BOX 100  
PENDLETON, OR 97801  
541.276.1260

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Feb. 3, 2015

Contact: Shannon Franklin, President's Office  
541-278-5951, [sfranklin@bluecc.edu](mailto:sfranklin@bluecc.edu)

## BMCC to open new wellness center, rededicate Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Library Feb. 13

PENDLETON, Ore. – Former Oregon Sen. Gordon Smith and his wife Sharon will be on hand Feb. 13 when Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) opens its new student Health & Wellness Resource Center, as well as rededicates the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Library, in Morrow Hall at the Pendleton campus.

The dedication ceremony, which will be held from noon to 2 p.m., will include a welcome from BMCC President Cam Preus, and remarks from the Smiths, Health & Wellness Center Director Cindy Womack, BMCC Board Chair Ed Tabor, the CTUIR Board of Trustees, and CHI St. Anthony Hospital. It will also include a poem read by BMCC Board member Kim Puzey, as well as a ribbon cutting and open house reception. A letter from Sen. Ron Wyden will also be read.

The Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Library was moved to Morrow Hall from St. Anthony Hospital when the hospital vacated its old facility on Southeast Court Avenue in 2014. The Library was originally dedicated in February of 2005, and served as a home for mental health resources for the community, as well as suicide prevention awareness. Garrett Lee Smith, the son of Sen. Gordon and Sharon Smith, committed suicide Sept. 8, 2003, while in college in Utah. The Library's move to BMCC is meant to allow these important resources to be more readily available to young people in the community. The balance of the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Fund, was established to help provide mental health resources for the community.

The new Health & Wellness Resource Center serves to provide educational workshops, counseling, disability services, suicide prevention and intervention skills training to BMCC students. The Center offers a proactive approach to well-being to help students learn how to recognize and build upon current levels of resiliency to cope during challenging or stressful times.

The public is welcome to attend the dedication ceremony and open house reception.

**What:** BMCC Health & Wellness Center Opening & Rededication of Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Library

**When:** Friday, Feb. 13, 2015 from noon to 2 p.m.

**Where:** Morrow Hall, BMCC Pendleton campus, 2411 NW Carden Avenue

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**BMCC BAKER COUNTY**  
3275 BAKER STREET  
BAKER CITY, OR 97814  
541.523.9127

**BMCC HERMISTON**  
980 SE COLUMBIA DRIVE  
HERMISTON, OR 97838  
541.567.1800

**BMCC MILTON-FREEWATER**  
311 N COLUMBIA  
MILTON-FREEWATER, OR 97862  
541.938.7176

**BMCC MORROW COUNTY**  
PO BOX 939 / 300 NE FRONT STREET  
BOARDMAN, OR 97818  
541.481.2099

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