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Open Education Resources save BMCC students over \$100,000 in textbook costs

PENDLETON, Ore. – Blue Mountain Community College students saved over \$100,000 in textbook costs from 2013-2015 thanks to Open Education Resources (OERs) and BMCC’s leadership to pave the way to savings. Now a conference hosted by BMCC on March 12-13 will show others how OERs can benefit students.

OERs are, at their core, about utilizing learning materials and other resources that are freely available, either through educational networks, open textbooks, open web resources or leveraging resources that are available in a library’s resource collection. It is an innovative model of sharing and creating resources and teaching materials among educators who share the common goal of providing student with a quality education at a lower cost and reinvigorating pedagogy.

BMCC faculty members are leaders in the state in both creating and using OERs. With textbook affordability in mind, BMCC E-Learning Coordinator Bruce Kauss worked with faculty and publishers to save BMCC students over \$100,000 since 2013 through the use of OERs. For example, a biology textbook typically costs a student around \$200 to purchase. Through OERs, a student could receive much of the information for free or with a nominal \$32 charge for a printed copy.

The OER Conference at BMCC seeks to share ideas on quality content, effective teaching practices, and institutional needs in order to move OERs from a great idea to implementation in an institution. Faculty, administrators, librarians and other community college stakeholders, as well as education service districts, are invited to attend. BMCC expects around 50 participants in the conference at the Pendleton campus.

The OER Conference will also feature a keynote presentation Thursday from 6-8 p.m. in ST-200 by Dr. Cable Green, Director of Global Learning at Creative Commons, a non-profit organization headquartered in Mountain View, Calif., devoted to expanding the range of creative works available for others to build upon legally and to share. BMCC student speakers will also share their experiences with saving money through OERs.

To register, or for more information, visit <http://goo.gl/forms/M0OVDf5SqG> or contact BMCC Director of Library and Media Services Jackie Ray, jray@bluecc.edu or 541-278-5916 or E-Learning Coordinator, Bruce Kauss, bkauss@bluecc.edu or 541-278-5763. To learn more about OERs, please visit BMCC’s OER resource page, <http://libguides.bluecc.edu/OER>.

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