



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Casey White-Zollman, Vice President Public Relations  
541-278-5839, [cwhitezollman@bluecc.edu](mailto:cwhitezollman@bluecc.edu)

## BMCC's TRiO Student Success program receives major federal grant

PENDLETON, Ore. – A thriving student success program at Blue Mountain Community College on Wednesday learned it can continue for another five years, thanks to an annual \$231,600 federal grant from the United States Department of Education. The grant will renew for five years.

The grant will fund BMCC's TRiO Student Success Program, which provides services to help students succeed in college, and is dedicated to increasing the retention, graduation, and transfer rate of students with a demonstrated financial need, who are first generation college students, or who are students with disabilities. A high percentage – 75% – of BMCC's degree-seeking students meet the full Student Support Services criteria.

Through a grant competition, funds were awarded to institutions of higher education to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary educations. The goal is to increase college retention and graduation rates of its participants.

Last year, BMCC served 165 low-income and first-generation college students and individuals with disabilities through the TRiO program. Success Coaches at BMCC help students navigate their educational journeys by providing developmental, proactive advising. The TRiO program serves a high-need population that faces multiple obstacles to persistence, retention, and the achievement of the level of academic sufficiency required to obtain an associate's degree and transfer to a four-year institution.

All of the TRiO Student Success Program services are free to qualified students. These include:

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|----------------------------------|--|
| Academic Advising                | Professional Math, Sciences & Writing Tutoring |
| Computer Lab Access              | Career Development & Testing                   |
| Peer Tutoring & Mentoring        | Study Skills Training                          |
| Transfer Planning                | Visits to 4-year University Campuses           |
| Time/Stress Management Workshops | Cultural Events                                |

For more information about the TRiO program, please visit [www.bluecc.edu](http://www.bluecc.edu).

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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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