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Community College

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## BMCC Baker Co. creating workforce pipeline for agricultural diesel mechanics

BAKER CITY, Ore. – Blue Mountain Community College has recently partnered with a local agricultural equipment company to begin building a workforce pipeline of qualified mechanics through the College’s diesel technologies program.

Robbins Farm Equipment of Baker City, which is one of the top 15 AGCO dealers in North America, is working with BMCC to assist workers to become certified to work on agricultural machinery by going through the College’s diesel technologies program in Pendleton. The program uses state-of-the-art computer diagnostics and the most current technologies in diesel engine designs to show students how to pinpoint problems or confirm efficient operations. Students spend educational time in local diesel shops – such as Robbins Farm Equipment – working directly with professionals and customers to gain valuable hands-on experience. BMCC offers an Associate of Applied Science degree in Diesel Technology, as well as a certificate in welding and a diesel technology career pathways certificate of completion as a technician assistant (which takes less than one year to earn).

Robbins Farm Equipment provides students with work experience and training opportunities prior to graduation from the program over the summer and winter breaks, as well as continued training upon employment. Though the partnership is still new, Robbins has already been in conversations with several students about employment. “In our particular industry, a qualified workforce has become increasingly difficult to find,” said Chelsey Colton of Robbins Farm Equipment. “Robbins Farm Equipment is very excited to have the opportunity to work with BMCC’s diesel tech students and hopefully offer them employment upon graduation.”

The partnership with Robbins Farm Equipment is just one of the ways that BMCC’s Baker County Center is working to connect students with a quality education and pathways to a career. Over the past two years, BMCC has invested more than \$72,000 in state-of-the-art video conferencing systems to serve local students pursuing transfer, nursing, and business technology degrees. With the help of professional tutors, BMCC Baker County is serving students around the county as they access college courses using the new video conferencing system. Students can take these courses from home, another school site, or anywhere there is an Internet connection.

BMCC Baker County also boasts a strong partnership with the Baker City Fire Department. BMCC is the sole provider of basic EMT courses for local firefighters, and currently a cohort of five Baker City firefighters are taking BMCC’s EMT course.

For more information about BMCC’s Baker County Center and what it can do for you, contact Center Director Dan Koopman, 541-523-9127, ext. 3200, or email [dkoopman@bluecc.edu](mailto:dkoopman@bluecc.edu).

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