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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BMCC to offer public sector leadership and customer service certificates

PENDLETON, Ore. – Blue Mountain Community College has added two one-year public sector certificates in public sector leadership and customer service.

These certificates came about as a result of a needs assessment of more than 300 Umatilla County employees. Those results indicated there was a need for leadership and customer service training for those working in the public sector. Census data from 2012 indicated there were 7,258 government jobs in Morrow and Umatilla counties, and that equates to almost 20% of the workforce. Oregon labor market data also showed that over half the family wage jobs were in the public sector.

No public sector certificates were available in the region, and BMCC's Business Technologies faculty members worked in partnership with Umatilla County, as well as in coordination with the Business Technologies advisory committee, to develop the programs. Program development required the addition of four classes: LD262 - Public Sector Leadership; LD263 - Serving in the Public Sector; SPAN161 - Conversational Business Spanish I; and SPAN162 - Conversational Business Spanish II. The Leadership in the Public Sector and Customer Service in the Public Sector certificates will flow into a two-year Associate of Applied Science Business Administration – Leadership and Service option degree. A 16-credit Career Pathway of Completion Certificate, Public Sector Employment, is also available.

Umatilla County is encouraging its employees to take courses during their working hours. The County is finalizing a compensation plan for those employees who complete the one-year certificates.

The two public sector courses (LD262 and LD263) will be offered spring term (registration begins Feb. 22, with spring term 2016 beginning March 28). The conversational business Spanish sequence will be offered in 2017 during winter and spring terms. For questions about the degree or certificates, please contact Velda Arnaud, Business Technologies Department Chair, at varnaud@bluecc.edu or 541-278-5740.

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