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## BMCC e-learning coordinator honored

PENDLETON, Ore. – Blue Mountain Community College’s E-Learning Coordinator, Bruce Kauss, was honored earlier this month for his significant contributions to online learning. Kauss was presented with the Excellence in Online Learning Award for higher education from Pearson North America, which provides instructional curriculum, services and assessments, as well as the technology to deliver them, to pre-K through higher education institutions. Kauss received his award during the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Cite Online Learning Conference in Jacksonville, Fla.

As an award recipient, Kauss was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship for the foundation of his choice. Kauss selected the BMCC Foundation, which provides scholarships to BMCC students, as the recipient of the funds.

Kauss was one of two recipients of the award for higher education, and one of just eight award recipients from Pearson overall. He was also the only recipient from the Northwest. He was selected for the award for taking the lead in the development of what became the “Oregon Colleges Course Sharing Consortium,” a coalition of eight small- and medium-sized colleges in Oregon focused on expanding learning opportunities for their students. In doing so, Kauss and his colleagues have provided a greater programmatic breadth for students in geographically disparate locations through the sharing of courses among member institutions. As its leader, Kauss has driven this initiative by consulting with members and ensuring the best possible experience for consortium members and their students.

“Bruce has done a tremendous job of helping to make education more accessible to students all over eastern Oregon,” said BMCC Vice President of Instruction Jim Whittaker. “He has a passion for online learning and for helping students succeed, and we’re proud of his leadership and accomplishments.”

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