



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2016

Contact: Casey White-Zollman, Vice President Public Relations
541-278-5839, cwhitezollman@bluecc.edu

Oregon SBDC Network awarded national accreditation

PENDLETON, Ore. – The Oregon Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network has been awarded national accreditation without conditions by America’s SBDC, its national association. Blue Mountain Community College hosts the local SBDC for northeastern Oregon.

Every five years, SBDC networks throughout the country are required to go through an accreditation process with the Accreditation Committee of America’s SBDC, which represents the nationwide network of SBDCs. Nearly 1,000 SBDC service centers, like the one at BMCC, are hosted around the country at local colleges and universities and state economic development agencies. They are funded, in part, by the U.S. Congress through a partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration. SBDCs offer assistance to local businesses, such as business plan development, counseling, training and more.

“This accreditation without conditions is a wonderful accomplishment by the Oregon SBDC Network and reflects well on our BMCC Small Business Development Center,” said BMCC President Cam Preus. “This is a proud moment for all of those in Oregon’s SBDCs who have worked so hard to serve local small business communities for so many years.”

Last November, Oregon SBDC staff and advisors met with the accreditation team comprised of regional and state SBDC directors: Al Salgado, Southwest Texas SBDC (Team Lead), Michael Myhre, Florida SBDC, and Katie Sewell, Idaho SBDC. The accreditation process requires the state network to meet a rigorous set of Baldrige based accreditation standards developed and deployed in cooperation with the SBA.

Based on the on-site review, final report and presentation by the accreditation team, the Accreditation Committee voted at its January 29 meeting to accept the recommendation of the team to fully accredit the Oregon SBDC Network with no conditions. The Accreditation Committee stated in their letter, “Numerous examples of innovative thinking and actions are detailed within the reports, as well as a number of important recommendations for the Oregon SBDC to consider implementing. The Oregon Small Business Development Center Network is commended for both its dedication and commitment to the pursuit of continuous improvement.”

About Oregon Small Business Development Centers: Oregon SBDCs provide comprehensive management assistance, training, and information resource services to established and prospective businesses. Professional certified business advisors provide assistance at no direct cost. OSBDCN is sponsored by 17 community colleges, two regional universities, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the Oregon Business Development Department, and is accredited by the Association of Small Business Development Centers. The network has 19 service centers located throughout the state with headquarters at Lane Community College. All SBA and Oregon SBDC Network activities are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

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

BMCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.