



BMCC PENDLETON  
2411 NW Carden Ave. ♦ PO Box 100 ♦ Pendleton, OR 97801  
(541) 276-1260 ♦ [www.bluecc.edu](http://www.bluecc.edu)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

## Seven student-athletes named spring NWAC Academic Excellence Award winners

PENDLETON, Ore. – Five Blue Mountain Community College baseball players and two softball players this week were named Academic Excellence Award winners for the spring by the Northwest Athletic Conference.

To qualify for this award, students must be sophomores in collegiate athletic eligibility, have earned a minimum of 36 credits, and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25.

Timberwolf baseball players awarded include infielder Casey Higginbotham (from Meridian, Idaho), catcher Chase Labbe (from Meridian, Idaho), outfielder Matthew Palmer (from Palmer, Alaska), catcher Jared Rogers (from La Grande, Ore.) and outfielder Rodney Scarver (from Prosser, Wash).

“These five guys excelled in the classroom and on the ballfield,” said BMCC Head Baseball Coach Brad Baker, who also serves as a Student Success Coach for BMCC student-athletes. “Chase, Rodney, Jared, Matt, and Casey are very deserving of this award.”

Baker said he’s proud of all 12 of his sophomores on the team, who had a combined GPA of 3.0 for the season. In addition, all 12 sophomores will head to a four-year university next fall.

Infielders Sarah Bonner (from Billings, Mont.) and Allison Wedgworth (from Scappoose, Ore.) were the Timberwolf softball players who received the Academic Excellence Award.

“I am very proud of Sarah and Allison as they are very deserving of these NWAC academic awards,” said BMCC Head Softball Coach Steve Richards. “Both spent the additional time to be successful students while also contributing their all for the softball team. These are the kind of players coaches hope to have on their team.”

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BMCC BAKER COUNTY  
3275 Baker St.  
Baker City, OR 97814  
(541) 523-9127

BMCC HERMISTON  
975 SE Columbia Dr.  
Hermiston, OR 97838  
(541) 567-1800

BMCC MILTON-FREEWATER  
311 N Columbia Dr.  
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862  
(541) 938-7176

BMCC MORROW COUNTY  
PO Box 939/300 NE Front St.  
Boardman, OR 97818  
(541) 481-2099