



## Hermiston School District 8R

502 W. Standard Avenue, Hermiston, Oregon 97838-1890

Phone: (541) 667-6000 Fax: (541) 667-6050

[www.hermiston.k12.or.us](http://www.hermiston.k12.or.us)

### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Fred R. Maiocco, Jr., Ph.D.  
Superintendent

Wade Smith  
Deputy Superintendent

Bryn Browning  
Assistant Superintendent

Briana Cortaberria  
Communications Officer and  
Executive Assistant to the  
Superintendent and Board

Mike Kay  
Executive Director  
Operations

Jon Mishra, Ed.D.  
Executive Director  
Special Programs

Mattias Rahm  
Technology Director

Katie Saul  
Business Manager

Betsy Heath  
Chartwells Food Service

Cindy Nicholson  
Mid Columbia Bus Co.

### PRINCIPALS

Jocelyn Jones  
Hermiston High School

Tom Spoo  
Armand Larive Middle School

Larry Usher  
Sandstone Middle School

Michael Roberts  
Desert View Elementary

Brad Bixler  
Highland Hills Elementary

B.J. Wilson  
Rocky Heights Elementary

Devin Grigg  
Sunset Elementary

Kevin Headings  
West Park Elementary

April 9, 2015

Oregon State Legislature  
Joint Ways and Means Committee  
900 Court St. NE, H-178  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Written Testimony Regarding Education Funding in the State of Oregon

Honorable Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

The recently passed education funding bill (HB 5017) specifies a level of \$7.255 Billion for K-12 schools for the upcoming 2015-17 biennium. The purpose of this letter is to let you know what this funding level really means to the Hermiston School District (HSD).

Bottom line up front: \$7.255 Billion is insufficient to maintain current programming. As proposed, HSD will see its General Purpose Grant Revenue per Extended ADMw grow by \$69, or 1%, from \$6,806 in 2014-15 to \$6,875 in 2015-16 based on estimates from ODE (12/5/2014 and 3/23/2015, respectively). This 1% growth appears to be related the accounting artifice of imposing a 50-50% biennial allocation, which is inconsistent with the recent historical funding precedent (49-51% split over the last several biennia). Using the more traditional allocation mechanism would have resulted in a reduction of \$111 for HSD in grant revenue per extended ADMw from \$6,806 in 2014-15 to \$6,695 in 2015-2016 (ODE estimates dated 12/5/2014 and 2/23/2015, respectively). In essence, the proposed legislation is insufficient and seeks to simply shift the costs of program escalation to local districts. If the proposed funding level is finally approved by the Legislature, we intend to defer some resources from 2015-16 to 2016-17 in order to ensure prudent fiscal stewardship throughout the entire term of the biennium, essentially imposing our own 49-51% split.

Student enrollment growth and programming reductions. HSD's extended ADMw grows by 366, or 5.8%, from 6,282 in 2014-15 to 6,648 in 2015-16 reflecting not just higher enrollment, but also increased rates for students requiring specialized services. Even with the 50-50 biennial allocation now being discussed, HSD will have to plan for modest programming reductions (e.g., reduced professional development, reduced classroom supplies, increased class sizes). We consider these to be relatively modest programming reductions, which are only possible because of our growing enrollment. If we were in a period of flat or declining enrollment like neighboring districts, we would be forced to make very draconian cuts.

**"Serving the needs of all children with rigorous program choices,  
high expectations, mutual respect, and excellence in all endeavors."**



## Hermiston School District 8R

502 W. Standard Avenue, Hermiston, Oregon 97838-1890

Phone: (541) 667-6000 Fax: (541) 667-6050

www.hermiston.k12.or.us

### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Fred R. Maiocco, Jr., Ph.D.  
Superintendent

Wade Smith  
Deputy Superintendent

Bryn Browning  
Assistant Superintendent

Briana Cortaberria  
Communications Officer and  
Executive Assistant to the  
Superintendent and Board

Mike Kay  
Executive Director  
Operations

Jon Mishra, Ed.D.  
Executive Director  
Special Programs

Mattias Rahm  
Technology Director

Katie Saul  
Business Manager

Betsy Heath  
Chartwells Food Service

Cindy Nicholson  
Mid Columbia Bus Co.

### PRINCIPALS

Jocelyn Jones  
Hermiston High School

Tom Spoo  
Armand Larive Middle School

Larry Usher  
Sandstone Middle School

Michael Roberts  
Desert View Elementary

Brad Bixler  
Highland Hills Elementary

B.J. Wilson  
Rocky Heights Elementary

Devin Grigg  
Sunset Elementary

Kevin Headings  
West Park Elementary

April 9, 2015

Oregon State Legislature  
Joint Ways and Means Committee  
900 Court St. NE, H-178  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Written Testimony Regarding Education Funding in the State of Oregon

Honorable Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

The recently passed education funding bill (HB 5017) specifies a level of \$7.255 Billion for K-12 schools for the upcoming 2015-17 biennium. The purpose of this letter is to let you know what this funding level really means to the Hermiston School District (HSD).

Bottom line up front: \$7.255 Billion is insufficient to maintain current programming. As proposed, HSD will see its General Purpose Grant Revenue per Extended ADMw grow by \$69, or 1%, from \$6,806 in 2014-15 to \$6,875 in 2015-16 based on estimates from ODE (12/5/2014 and 3/23/2015, respectively). This 1% growth appears to be related the accounting artifice of imposing a 50-50% biennial allocation, which is inconsistent with the recent historical funding precedent (49-51% split over the last several biennia). Using the more traditional allocation mechanism would have resulted in a reduction of \$111 for HSD in grant revenue per extended ADMw from \$6,806 in 2014-15 to \$6,695 in 2015-2016 (ODE estimates dated 12/5/2014 and 2/23/2015, respectively). In essence, the proposed legislation is insufficient and seeks to simply shift the costs of program escalation to local districts. If the proposed funding level is finally approved by the Legislature, we intend to defer some resources from 2015-16 to 2016-17 in order to ensure prudent fiscal stewardship throughout the entire term of the biennium, essentially imposing our own 49-51% split.

Student enrollment growth and programming reductions. HSD's extended ADMw grows by 366, or 5.8%, from 6,282 in 2014-15 to 6,648 in 2015-16 reflecting not just higher enrollment, but also increased rates for students requiring specialized services. Even with the 50-50 biennial allocation now being discussed, HSD will have to plan for modest programming reductions (e.g., reduced professional development, reduced classroom supplies, increased class sizes). We consider these to be relatively modest programming reductions, which are only possible because of our growing enrollment. If we were in a period of flat or declining enrollment like neighboring districts, we would be forced to make very draconian cuts.

**"Serving the needs of all children with rigorous program choices,  
high expectations, mutual respect, and excellence in all endeavors."**

Prudent stewardship. As you know, Hermiston School District staff voluntarily gave up wage increases for four years to assure we remained financially stable during the lean years. We also partially implemented full day kindergarten in 2014-15, ahead of state funding reimbursements, for same because we believe such programming is the right investment decision for our community. During these very trying lean years, student achievement went up, at least partly because our staff understood the concept of sacrifice and focus in these most difficult of times.

Disinvestment in Education. I would contend that one of the paramount duties of the State is to ensure access to high quality public education for our citizens. Escalating program costs in other areas of the state budget continue to result in a declining share of State expenditures for public education. I believe strongly that escalating costs in other areas should not be borne by the children and communities we serve. Continued erosion of education's share of the state budget is NOT in the best interest of our students, our community, or our state, and it arguably exacerbates the problem of declining revenues.

What is reasonably required? Education funding is an investment in both the present and the future. In HSD, we are getting results. A statewide SSF budget for K-12 of at least \$7.5 Billion is required to maintain current programming levels. We also recommend a return to the 49-51% biennial allocation model consistent with recent historical trends.

Please let me know if I can answer any other questions you may have.

With regards,



Dr. Fred Maiocco  
Superintendent of Schools

April 11, 2015

Esteemed Ways and Means Committee Members,

First, I would also like to express appreciation for you coming to eastern Oregon and listening to our good people. We have many challenges in Oregon, and your job is not easy. But, we appreciate what you do.

In 1993 I began my first teaching job in Oregon, after 3 years of teaching in Nevada. Both my wife and I were raised in Oregon and we had a desire to return closer to home. However, in returning to Oregon, I had to take a substantial pay cut. To deal with the loss of income, we had to sell our new mini-van, the first (and last) brand new car that we have owned as a family, and we bought an old, used Chevy station wagon for \$900. We drove it for several years until it would drive no more. We did all of this because we love this great state and the people who live here.

Before that first year teaching in Oregon was over, I was informed that due to budget cuts my position as the school media specialist was being cut. Though later on the position was re-instated, I was devastated at the time. Now, looking back, I realize that compared to today those were the good ol' days for school funding in Oregon. Most students today have never even attended a school with a media specialist.

In Umatilla School District we've gone through some tough downsizing over the past 6 years. Things have become tight, teachers have taken on greater loads, and students have less options. Every time we've gone through such cuts, we've done it thinking that things would eventually turn around and get better. Unfortunately they haven't.

Now we're facing even more downsizing, more cuts, and more lost opportunities for students. It's time to fix school funding for good, and we can't wait another two years to do it. The situation is already dire.

Every teacher, administrator and school employee that I know, does what they do because they care about the students and the future of this state. And, because of that, we will continue to soldier on. But, we're getting weary. Teachers are working long hours (much more than a 40 hour week). Class sizes are growing out of control, to the point where you can hardly walk across a classroom (because of the wall-to-wall desks). It is not easy work, but we do it because it's important and we care.

Please, when you go back to Salem, consider the dire circumstances that K-12 schools are facing, and see what you can do to fix things. It's not just important for the future of our state, it's vital.

Thank you,

David Lougee  
ESL/Migrant Coordinator  
Umatilla School District

## **Full Ways and Means Committee Public Hearing**

SAGE Center, Boardman

12:30-2pm Saturday, April 11, 2015

Arthur J. Hill  
2514 SW Marshall Avenue  
Pendleton OR 97801

Honorable Co-Chairs, Committee members, and fellow Oregonians. For the past 13 years, I have served Blue Mountain Community College as Vice President for Economic Development. Today I address you as a private citizen with direct experience of the vital role our community colleges play in our state, regional and local economies. Today's community colleges are training tomorrow's workforce, and employers right here at the Port of Morrow have told us that a skilled workforce is their highest priority. BMCC provides these employers with not only skilled new employees, but training for existing employees, small business development for their suppliers, apprenticeships for their licensed trades, on-site training for supervisors and workers, skills assessment to national standards.

These economic development programs may not be as visible as traditional degree and certificate programs, but they are every bit as important to our business communities. A couple of weeks ago Jayne Clarke, owner of Pioneer Construction in Pendleton testified about the importance of BMCC's Small Business Development Center to her 13 million dollar company. What you may not know is that BMCC also offers a 27-hour series of webcasts for ODOT contractors like Jayne statewide, offering them the same expertise and tools that Jayne used to grow her company into one of the State's most highly certified asphalt, aggregate and heavy construction companies.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. BMCC staff serve on local, regional and State economic development commissions, boards and associations; work closely with economic development districts; staff public-private partnerships with site selectors and developers; and participate in federally funded projects that leverage State investments.

Our community college commitment extends to every sector of business and industry from precision agriculture to healthcare, early childhood education to advanced manufacturing, natural resources to unmanned aerial systems, transportation to tourism. BMCC is as engaged on Main Street as we are in the laboratory and classroom. Our communities know this. Our employers know this, and you know this.

As you give thoughtful consideration to the funding of community colleges, I urge you to look beyond the obvious and support the value that our employers and communities place on the contributions of Oregon's community colleges not only to workforce and business development, but to the economic development of our region and the entire State.

Thank you.

Full Ways and Means Road Show

SAGE Center, Boardman

April 11, 2015

Testimony of Camille Preus

President, Blue Mountain Community College

Thank you for coming to Eastern Oregon, for the record...

- Been at BMCC just under two years and now better understand the word “community” in the community college name
- Comprehensive community college provides the start for many looking to expand their educational and career opportunities
- Affordable community college education has never been more important
- Critical role of community college academic faculty in offering quality transfer programs for smooth transitions to universities
- CTE programs are vital as they provide the education and training for our students who want relevant hands-on training for family wage jobs
- Strength of relationship between faculty and students ensures success
- BMCC has a bond measure to garner local voter support for new facilities
  - Leverage public and private partners
- Your support with matching Article XI-G bond dollars is essential
- 550 million is essential to keep education affordable in rural Oregon

Thank You

Co-chairs & committee members thank you for allowing me an opportunity to speak to you today. It is nice to be able to do so close to home rather than traveling to Salem. My name is Tina Martinez and I have taught Sociology at BMCC for the past 21 years. First I want to let you know that I wouldn't be here if not for the opportunities I received many years ago at my local community college in California. I was like lots of nineteen year olds, unsure of the direction I would take with my life. I was fortunate to live right near my local community college. I attended Cypress College for two years where I had the freedom to explore and grow. It was here that I discovered the path I wanted to take. What made this opportunity so special was I was able to do so without incurring any debt. In California in 1974 Community College was free. I was lucky indeed. This enabled me to get the first two years of my college degree living at home without incurring any debt.

Today this is virtually unheard of. I came to Blue Mountain 21 years ago. At the time students paid approximately \$35 per credit hour. Not free, but still a bargain. Over the past 21 years this has changed drastically, less money has been available from the state, yet the cost of running the college has increased. In order to continue providing students with a quality education it has been necessary for the college to raise tuition. In just two decades tuition at Blue Mountain has increased nearly 200% to \$94 a credit hour for the 2015-16 academic year. The burden has been shifted to the students. The consequences of these increases have played out as follows: More student loans, the necessity for students to work while attending school and unfortunately for some the inability to attend school.

The loss of funding from the state has had drastic consequences for Blue Mountain. We have experienced cuts to programs. We have had to lay off full-time faculty necessitating the use of adjunct faculty. Adjunct faculty are often available only at certain hours not necessarily when students need the classes. Additionally, in rural Eastern Oregon it is often difficult to find qualified people. This impacts the availability and quality of our programs.

As a Sociologist I know the importance of an education. In a service oriented economy an education is increasingly important. Data shows that the best investment one can make is in one's education. Unfortunately for many students this means that they will leave college with an inordinate amount of debt. We can and must do better for our future generation. Investing in schools invests in our community's future. An educated populace helps the whole community, not just the individual student. Businesses have better employees, citizens have better paying jobs, and the state has a stronger tax base. One of the best investments we can make is investing in human capital – it makes a difference for all of us.

I strongly encourage you to increase the budget available for community colleges so that we can do the best job possible of preparing our students for the future.



**Testimony to Joint Ways and Means Committee**

**Saturday, April 11**

**SAGE Center, Boardman, Oregon**

Afternoon, FOR THE RECORD my name is Ashley Clark, I'm the Vice President of the Associated Student Government at Blue Mountain Community College.

BMCC hasn't just been an academic experience for me, I've been immersed in community efforts, social and political causes, and I've been mentored by such influential and supportive staff.

BMCC feels like MY college because I've had such a personalized experience through the generous stock of resources BMCC offers.

It goes without saying that we are a gem in Eastern Oregon.

I believe we can continue to produce such impactful results given the continual support of the state of Oregon.

For when our institution is invested in, our students are invested in, ten fold.

We've been crusading open education resources for students to provide a more affordable education.

But we rely on the aid of our state as a whole.

Though there's 16 other community colleges in Oregon, Blue Mountain stands apart in its success stories, despite the nationwide struggles in education funding.

With the support of its state, I hope to see BMCC provide Oregon students with quality education for decades to come.

- Ashley

## **Full Ways and Means Committee Public Hearing**

SAGE Center, Boardman

12:30-2pm Saturday, April 11, 2015

Arthur J. Hill  
2514 SW Marshall Avenue  
Pendleton OR 97801

Honorable Co-Chairs, Committee members, and fellow Oregonians. For the past 13 years, I have served Blue Mountain Community College as Vice President for Economic Development. Today I address you as a private citizen and taxpayer with direct experience of the vital role our community colleges play in our state, regional and local economies. Today's community colleges are training tomorrow's workforce, and employers right here at the Port of Morrow have told us that a skilled workforce is their highest priority. BMCC provides these employers with not only skilled new employees, but training for existing employees, small business development for their suppliers, apprenticeships for their licensed trades, on-site training for supervisors and workers, skills assessment to national standards.

These economic development programs may not be as visible as traditional degree and certificate programs, but they are every bit as important to our business communities. A couple of weeks ago Jayne Clarke, owner of Pioneer Construction in Pendleton testified about the importance of BMCC's Small Business Development Center to her 13 million dollar company. What you may not know is that BMCC also offers a 27-hour series of webcasts for ODOT contractors like Jayne statewide, offering them the same expertise and tools that Jayne used to grow her company into one of the State's most highly certified asphalt, aggregate and heavy construction companies.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. BMCC staff serve on local, regional and State economic development commissions, boards and associations; work closely with economic development districts; staff public-private partnerships with site

selectors and developers; and participate in federally funded projects that leverage State investments.

Our community college commitment extends to every sector of business and industry from precision agriculture to healthcare, early childhood education to advanced manufacturing, natural resources to unmanned aerial systems, transportation to tourism. BMCC is as engaged on Main Street as we are in the laboratory and classroom. Our communities know this. Our employers know this, and you know this.

As you give thoughtful consideration to the funding of community colleges, I urge you to look beyond the obvious and support the value that our employers and communities place on the contributions of Oregon's community colleges not only to workforce and business development, but to the economic development of our region and the entire State.

Thank you.

## Testimony for Joint Ways and Means

### Mental Health under Senate Bill 5526

Good day Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Timothy Lindberg, I am from Hermiston Oregon and am representing and speaking on behalf of and as the President of the Umatilla County Peer Support Network.

We are requesting support from the state under Senate Bill 5526. Our program is seeking supportive funding for transportation in rural areas, for our community Peer Drop-In Center and to attain our goal of becoming a leader and ways to connect other peer programs across Oregon.

Transportation is a huge barrier for people who are isolated and in living in rural areas. People should be able to have transportation for more than their appointments. It helps to get people out and into a social setting and often, individuals in rural communities become isolated and unhealthy. There is many options for transportation for those who have EOCCO/OMAP State Insurance, but for those who have only Medicare/Medicaid or no insurances there is no options and limited resources that have large restrictions in city boundaries.

With the support of our local county mental health clinic, Lifeway's, Inc., we are in the process of obtaining a building to expand our services while working with them to build a healthy community. With that many clients of Lifeway's will be able to transition into more Peer services and support and be able to access what the Peer Drop-In Center will offer, with the lack of transportation, the Peers could possibly regress and not continue the progress as they have thus far. The Peers in this program would like to open the support classes and actions to the community and others who are not necessary a Lifeway's, Inc. client. This cannot happen with

the current transportation situation as it is now. Additional support in funding this endeavor will help provide the environment, training, and supplies to make it successful.

Our ultimate goal is to become the leading peer organization in Oregon, kicking the tail off transportation issues in rural areas, getting Peers supported and engaged in themselves, friendships, the community and assist other Peer Groups which will serve as a role model and provide peer programs with a resource to connect with other programs as well as starting, growing, and helping them maintain a successful program. An successful Recovery for self and the community at which they live in.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

## Umatilla County Peer Support Network History and Progress

The Umatilla Peer Support Network started as an idea over four years ago when Cody C. Chase, MSW became an employee of Lifeways Inc and noticed quickly that there was no peer program in place. In his experience with prior employers, peer programs were a huge productive part of therapy. Mr. Chase discussed the concept with his supervisor, Manager Jeremy Beus and was given permission to design and implement a peer program. The Hermiston branch started very small with Mr. Chase and just a few peers who saw the value in such a program. This small core group quickly dissipated and Mr. Chase was again looking for potential peers who were dedicated to their recovery and capable of getting the program off to a strong start. Mr. Chase saw this potential in a few people who were clients of his and other therapists, one of which remains an important part of the program today. Rosanna Roper was a client of another therapist and was not only working hard on her recovery but was also attending college and eager to attend all the training and conferences that went along with becoming a Peer Support Specialist. She has since completed her Associates degree, 80 hours of ISP training resulting in two Peer Support Specialist Certificates, many conferences, has become an employee of Lifeways Inc. The program grew to include 8-12 members with four being very dedicated up until about six months ago when many of the core members either moved out of the area or ended services at Lifeways. During that time Alisia Mendoza came aboard as a Peer Support Specialist Intern, volunteering to gain experience and hoping this will give her the opportunity for employment and about a month later Amy Funk was hired by Lifeways as a Full time Peer Support Specialist. With the new combination of energy and mixture of different personalities the program has taken on a whole new life and has grown to over 30 participants. Alisia, Amy, and Rosanna have designed and developed many new groups to accommodate the growing number of peers and their wide range of interests to keep members engaged, involved, and returning. On top of groups the three specialists also see peers on an individual basis to assist, support, and challenge individuals in a wide variety of needs. A proposal written by Ms. Roper has been submitted to upper management of Lifeways Inc to acquire a building outside of the clinic and open up these groups and services to the public as well as Lifeways clients. This proposal was taken into consideration and is currently in the works. A definite date for the building is unknown but in the meantime our local chapter of The Arc is allowing the larger groups to be held in their building free of charge until our own building is up and running. Great things are happening in the Hermiston peer program, growth is happening at a rate that was unexpected but welcome and exciting!

## Hermiston Peer Activities April 2015

I will be making regular reports and updates about what our branch of the peer program is doing and its accomplishments. I am open to stories and information from anyone who has input. I will begin with staff updates then move on to events and finally, accomplishments.

### Staff Updates

Cody C. Chase, MSW|Peer Coordinator: Will be attending this year's GOHBI Spring Conference and was interviewed for an article about the Umatilla County Peer Support Network that was published in the Hermiston Herald (article below).

Rosanna D. Roper, AS|PSS, Retention Specialist: Was approved to attend a grant writing course to learn the art and work closely with other grant writers within Lifeways to effectively apply for grants to benefit the peer program. She was a speaker at the CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) for local law enforcement in March. Rosanna is also now representing the Peer program for the QIC (Quality Improvement Committee) for Lifeways which reflects back to GOBHI.

Amy Funk, BA|State Certified Traditional Healthcare Worker, PSS: Earned her Bachelor's degree in March. Will be attending this year's GOBHI Spring Conference and taking the board members of the Umatilla County Support Network who will also attend.

Alisia Mendoza, Certified Traditional Healthcare Worker, PSS: Began working at full time status in April. Will be attending this year's GOBHI Spring Conference with Amy Funk and the board members of the Umatilla County Peer Support Network.

### Events

Recent events completed by the Connections peer group held at Lifeways in Hermiston were hand making and delivering Valentine's Day cards to every resident in every assisted living and retirement home in Hermiston. This was a huge task and it made so many community members feel happy and remembered. Here is the article.

Enter your email address

Get all the latest headlines

Submit!

# HermistonHerald

## Peer support members band together to make sure others have a happy Valentine's Day

By Maegan Murray  
Hermiston Herald

Published:  
February 17, 2015 8:37PM



Members of the Umatilla County Peer Support Network pass out Valentines they made for residents in area retirement and assisted living facilities Saturday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Members of the Umatilla County Peer Support Network decided to do something special for elderly individuals at retirement and assisted living facilities this year for Valentine's Day.**

Valentine's Day can be a sad holiday for people spending the day alone, which is why members of the Umatilla County Peer Support Network wanted to do something special for elderly residents in the region.

For the first time since the group was started a few years ago, members of the network made Valentine's Day cards for residents living at the assisted living and retirement homes in the region. As a group, they created nearly 400 cards, which they hand-delivered to Sun Terrance Assisted Living, Guardian Angel Homes, Columbia Care Cottage-Ozmac, Ashley Manor Care Center, Brookdale Senior Living and Regency Hermiston Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Saturday.

<http://www.hermistonherald.com/hh/local-news/20150217/peer-support-members-band-to...> 2/18/2015



"One of the peers brought it up in a meeting that Valentine's Day is a major holiday that really makes people feel depressed, so the peer suggested that we make cards for all the nursing homes," Peer Support Specialist Amy Funk said.

Funk said the effort was important for both the elderly residents who were receiving them, as well as the peer support members, because the purpose of group is to have people gather and encourage and empower one another by knowledge and skill activities. With the event, she said, they were able to do just that.

Funk said the people who received Valentines were pleasantly surprised.

"All the people were very shocked a group thought of them ... and took the time out of their lives to make the cards for them," she said. "They also (were) very grateful and felt special that they were getting something for Valentine's Day."

The feeling of support was also shared by those volunteering.

"I will never forget one lady that surprised me and melted my heart," one peer member wrote of the experience. "She treated me as though I was not a stranger, but someone she knew for a very long time. As I left the room, I could feel the tears falling from my eyes. It caught me off guard and reminded me of my grandparents that have passed."

Another peer member wrote it was amazing to see the look on people's faces.

"The look on their face was just priceless," he wrote. "It is something I will never forget. Their face would just light up with happiness, and it showed them that there are people out there who care and think about them."

Funk said the peer support will continue the effort every year and consider other things they can do for people.

"We are hoping to be able to do this every year ... plus more stuff similar to this during other holidays," she said.

<http://www.hermistonherald.com/hh/local-news/20150217/peer-support-members-band-to...> 2/18/2015

For Easter the same group stuffed 5,000 eggs for two local churches, New Hope Church and Trinity Church. The peer board and peers have begun taking donations of used medicine bottles to recycle by sending them to Malawi for medical professionals to have a sanitary way to distribute medications to patients. Anyone in the community can drop off used prescription bottles with the labels removed and the peer group will package them and send them. Here is the information that prompted the effort.

#### Malawi Needs Medicine Bottles

We throw them away. They go to a landfill. After all, what can we use them for after the medicine is gone? It's those empty medicine bottles. Still clean and new like the day they were born there should be something they can be used for.

There is! You can boil water and clean off the labels and glue and send them to Malawi. So often in the small rural hospitals medicine is dispensed into small torn pieces of newspaper for transportation to village homes. Then where to put them? Where will they be safe? Where will they be out of reach of children? Where will they stay clean?

Upcoming events and fundraising ideas are our annual peer barbeque, collecting pop cans, car washes, and many more suggestions to be considered.

#### Accomplishments

I have listed many of our accomplishments in the above section so here is what I feel is our biggest recent accomplishment...The Hermiston Herald article with Cody C. Chase, Amy Funk, and one of our most active peers and board member Tammy Walker. I apologize I couldn't get the heading to align properly.

# Hermiston Herald

# Finding a purpose and place to belong

[Share on email](#) [Share on facebook](#) [Share on twitter](#) [Share on print](#) [More Sharing Services](#) 7

By [Maegan Murray](#)

Hermiston Herald

Published: April 7, 2015 12:01AM

Last changed: April 7, 2015 9:24PM



Maegan Murray photo

Umatilla County Peer Support Network board member and peer Tammy Walker puts some supplies away Thursday afternoon that were used in a community service project for the peer network.

[Buy this photo](#)

Community members in Hermiston are finding that through a peer support network, they are able to overcome mental health battles including depression, loneliness and more.

Hermiston's Tammy Walker found a way to get out of a bad relationship, but needed some motivation to get out of the house and connect with people again.

“I was isolated and needed socialization,” she said. “Immediately after I got out of that relationship, I called Lifeways. I know for a fact that if I wasn’t coming here, I would be a recluse.”

Walker said she was abused in her former relationship, and she felt she could never leave the house, for fear of retribution. She said if she did leave their home while her partner was away he would lash out at her when she returned.

“It definitely wasn’t a good situation,” Walker said.

She was also dealing with physical limitations of a rare muscle disease known as dermatomyositis, which makes her unable to work and difficult for her to leave the house. She knew that if she didn’t seek help, she probably would never improve mentally and emotionally.

Walker said she started therapy with Lifeways, and while sessions have been immensely helpful, there is one thing she feels has helped bring her out of her shell: the Umatilla County Peer Support Network.

Through the network, Walker participates in a variety of peer-based talk therapy sessions, where in those sessions, she and her peers talk through issues that they deal with on a daily basis that have provided barriers or limitations in their overall life.

The program was started by Cody Chase, shortly after he joined Lifeways as a therapist in 2009. At the time, the organization had no peer-support groups, and after asking about it, Chase was encouraged to start a program.

“It’s a program that I’ve built on my own time,” he said. “I worked on it during lunch, before and after work ... I built it up from my own case load. I asked my clients if they would be interested in participating, and many of them were.”

Since Chase started the program in 2009, it has expanded. He said they started off with one session, one day a month. Since that period, they have expanded to offering 10 groups that meet at least once a week.

Chase said they have moved some of their support network sessions into The Arc of Umatilla County building, which has been helpful, but he wants to find a permanent location for the effort, so that they can be self sustaining and grow.

Chase said they are currently working to provide opportunities for the general public to participate in certain groups, without having to be a registered Lifeways client.

“We’re kind of in a soft opening for that right now,” he said.

Currently, he said they offer two groups that allow general public members to participate. One develops community service projects that allow participating to fulfill a purpose and get out into the community to do some good.

The group called “Connections” has completed projects including making and distributing Valentines at senior living facilities and packaging about 5,000 eggs for local churches for Easter egg hunts. The group is currently collecting used medicine bottles that will be sent to Malawi, Africa, where they will be used to package medication for those that need it.

Walker said those types of opportunities have given her a purpose in life, since she can’t work, while also allowing her to socialize.

Chase said that has always been the goal for the group.

“It is amazing when you give somebody a little bit of energy from another person and watching them blossom into a whole other human being,” he said. “Even though we live in a very technological world today where the Internet makes it easier to communicate, we’re not talking to each other face to face.”

Amy Funk, a peer-support specialist for the effort, said people need that emotional connection.

“When you talk to somebody face to face, you feel it,” she said. “There’s no emotion in a text message or an email and it’s less personal.”

Chase said his main goals with the program are to provide Lifeways clients and the community a place they can belong and have a purpose by helping others. He said talking through issues can help people overcome life’s struggles, creating a healthier community.

“I want all of Hermiston to get involved in this,” he said.

He said the purpose of the groups is to provide a place for people to get together and share their life experiences.

“Who understands depression better than someone with depression?” he said. “If someone is lonely, who better to communicate that struggle than that person?”

Walker said she is now a board member for the effort and is looking into starting a couple of support groups of her own. She is interested in starting a class for people who have dealt with domestic violence.

“I want to use my experience and work with other people who have experienced that to help each other,” she said. “We’re all going down the same road. We might as well all get together to help one another.”

Chase said there are many individuals, like Walker, who have so much to give, but end up getting figuratively “locked away and forgotten about” because there is such a stigma with mental health. He hopes with the peer network to overcome that stigma so that they can make for a healthier and thriving Hermiston.

**To help or learn more**

**For more information about the Umatilla County Peer Support Network, contact the Hermiston Lifeways office at 541-567-2536.**

**To donate to the Connections peer network**

## Peer Support Position Accomplishments

In the past year and few months I have helped two people gain employment through helping them locate job openings and the application process.

I helped one client who has become a college student navigate the BMCC website and online classes so that she could do her homework. I assisted another with getting registered and setting up appointments for testing to begin college, unfortunately they tested low so we are in the process of getting resources for them to practice skills to try and score higher on the test and get into college.

Two clients have completed and submitted their Social Security applications with my assistance.

Two clients have gained health insurance through OHP with my help in directing them to a specialist who could help them with the application process and going with them to the appointment to ease anxiety.

I assisted one client in finding a new PCP as he was unhappy with his current PCP. I also accompanied another client to a doctor's appointment she was afraid to attend and reported information, as asked, back to the nurse at Lifeways that the client didn't understand.

I had a client request information on what facilities in the area would provide a course in becoming a certified CNA, I found the on facility that does and referred her to it.

I have assisted a few people in the process of applying for a new Social Security Card.

I have assisted multiple clients in finding low income housing. I assisted them with finding the agencies and landlords that accept low income renters, helped them obtain applications, fill them out and return them.

I accompanied two clients to court proceedings/legal aid appointments to help with understanding and ease anxiety.

I have assisted three clients in the process of applying for assistance for seeing eye glasses, all three received their glasses.

I helped a client with their decision to relocate to a different town. I gave them resources to find a new mental health clinician, new PCP, and a new pharmacy. I also transported them to their new home once they had everything in place.

This is up to date information as of June 2014 as a part time PSS over the course of a year. These accomplishments are the highlights of individual support. I do many more tasks related to the development of our local peer program and programs outside our area plus public awareness.

Prudent stewardship. As you know, Hermiston School District staff voluntarily gave up wage increases for four years to assure we remained financially stable during the lean years. We also partially implemented full day kindergarten in 2014-15, ahead of state funding reimbursements, for same because we believe such programming is the right investment decision for our community. During these very trying lean years, student achievement went up, at least partly because our staff understood the concept of sacrifice and focus in these most difficult of times.

Disinvestment in Education. I would contend that one of the paramount duties of the State is to ensure access to high quality public education for our citizens. Escalating program costs in other areas of the state budget continue to result in a declining share of State expenditures for public education. I believe strongly that escalating costs in other areas should not be borne by the children and communities we serve. Continued erosion of education's share of the state budget is NOT in the best interest of our students, our community, or our state, and it arguably exacerbates the problem of declining revenues.

What is reasonably required? Education funding is an investment in both the present and the future. In HSD, we are getting results. A statewide SSF budget for K-12 of at least \$7.5 Billion is required to maintain current programming levels. We also recommend a return to the 49-51% biennial allocation model consistent with recent historical trends.

Please let me know if I can answer any other questions you may have.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fred Maiocco', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Dr. Fred Maiocco  
Superintendent of Schools



April 11, 2015

Dear Senators and Representatives of Oregon,

I represent the secret club.

I am a parent of a young adult with severe mental health illness. Severe means the county mental health programs will not serve them because "the individual is not aware of their illness" and there for not asking for help. The criminal system, drug and alcohol facilities, and homeless services are where many vulnerable, severe mental health individuals are served. This is sad and wrong. I've had department staff in many areas tell me -- to get mental health services to help my son because, he is not self-medicating and is not a criminal (even though he now has a record because of his mental health).

Please read the attached federal information and call your US Representative and ask for their support in changing how we serve severe mental health individuals.

I believe in my son, he has a right to full fill his dreams of employment (with is MH he can only hold a job for about two weeks), buying a house (he has ruined his credit with his MH and has already been homeless), having children (he cannot keep a relationship due to his MH).

Thank you for your time.

Member of the secret club

**Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America (SARDAA) encourages you to examine the facts and call and write your representatives.**

[www.SARDAA.org](http://www.SARDAA.org) (240) 423-9432 [linda.stalters@sardaa.org](mailto:linda.stalters@sardaa.org)

**Claims and Actual Facts about the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act (HR 3717)**

Prepared by Mental Illness Policy Org. <http://mentalillnesspolicy.org>

Claim	Fact
HR3717 greatly promotes stigma and discrimination by its unfounded and damaging connection between mental illness and violence."	HR 3717 does not make any claim that persons with mental illness are more violent. However, provisions of the bill have been proven to reduce violence by those with untreated serious mental illness. It is <u>violence by this minority that stigmatizes the majority</u> , so it can be expected HR 3717 will reduce stigma.
HR3717 virtually eliminates the main system of legal representation for Americans with psychiatric disabilities	The Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) program was founded to improve the quality of care received by the most seriously ill. It now focuses on 'freeing' them from treatment and <u>lobbying states to oppose policies that can help the most seriously ill</u> (ex preservation of hospitals for those who need them. HR 3717 returns PAIMI to its original mission and reigns in their ability to use funds to lobby against treatment needed by some of the seriously ill.
The bill would amend HIPAA and erode privacy rights for people who have a mental health diagnosis and strip away privacy rights for Americans with psychiatric disabilities <i>yes</i>	HIPAA and FERPA require doctors to keep parents in the dark absent a specific waiver by the mentally ill individual. Mentally ill individuals who "know" the FBI planted a transmitter in their head are unlikely to sign the waiver. Parents who are caregivers need the information about the diagnosis, treatment plan, medications and pending appointments of mentally ill loved ones so they can ensure they have prescriptions filled and transportation to appointments. HR 3717 writes very limited exclusions into HIPAA that allow parents who provide care out of love to get the same information paid caretakers already receive.
Incentivize needless hospitalization and civil rights violations	The <u>Institutes for Mental Disease (IMD)</u> provision of Medicaid prevents states from receiving reimbursement for persons with mental illness who need care in a state psychiatric hospital. So states kick the seriously mentally ill out of hospitals. Many wind up incarcerated. Patrick Kennedy called the IMD Exclusion federally funded discrimination against the mentally ill since Medicaid reimburses for hospital care when the illness is any organ other than the brain. HR3717 makes small revisions in Medicaid so those who need hospital care are more likely to receive it. It does not require anyone to be hospitalized or gives states an incentive to hospitalize.
Redirect federal funds from effective, voluntary community services to high-cost, involuntary treatment, including outpatient commitment	HR3717 does not redirect funds away from voluntary community services. It does give states an incentive to help people who were offered voluntary services and refused to accept them. For example, <u>Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)</u> is for people who fail on voluntary treatment. It is often the last off ramp before hospitalization or incarceration. By replacing hospitalization and incarceration with community treatment, it cuts costs in half.
Destroys SAMHSA	HR3717 creates an Assistant Secretary of Mental Health to distribute funds previously distributed by SAMHSA and directs the Assistant Secretary to fund evidence-based programs that help the most seriously ill. SAMHSA has refused to do either.
The AOT interventions proposed in the bill are not proven to work, are costly and drive people away from seeking support.	<u>Six months of mandated and monitored treatment</u> has been shown to reduce homelessness 74%; hospitalization 77%; arrest 83%; incarceration 87%, physical harm to others 47%; property destruction 46%; suicide attempts 55%; and <u>substance abuse</u> (48%). 80% of those in AOT—as opposed to those who purport to speak for them—said it helped them get well and stay well. Those in AOT had lower perceived stigma than others. AOT does allow judges to order the mental health system to provide care which likely accounts for some objections. It limits a programs ability to cherry pick the highest functioning for admission.
The bill's provisions run counter to <i>Olmstead v. LC</i> (1999), which calls for persons to receive services in the "most integrated setting."	By funding AOT, HR3717 reduces the use of both hospitalization and incarceration thereby <u>furthering the mandate in Olmstead</u> to help persons with mental illness live in the most integrated setting.
The bill would slash innovative and promising programs developed by persons in mental health recovery	HR 3717 takes steps to ensure that programs that get funded are evidence-based. Other programs could apply to NIMH for research to determine if they work. Many "innovative" programs are being funded absent research showing they work. Numerous recent studies show that some programs that use peers to replace professionals in service delivery have not been proven effective in improving meaningful outcomes (reduced suicide, homelessness, arrest, incarceration) in people with serious mental illness.

**PENDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 2015-16 BUDGET SCENARIO AT \$7.255B**  
**FUNDING LEVEL**

In November of 2013 the community of Pendleton approved a \$55M bond to improve our facilities. Central to these improvements is the creation of the Pendleton Early Learning Center, a building that will house all of our kindergarten students in a full-day program as well as several other programs serving children ages 3 and 4. This facility will open in the fall of 2015 and I invite all of you to stop by for a visit if you are in Pendleton.

Staffing costs for our KG program will be \$2.1M for 2015-16. At the \$7.255B legislative funding level, and using a 50-50 split for the biennium, the Pendleton School District will receive \$1.8M for the full-day program. This \$300,000 deficit relates only to staffing costs (salaries and benefits) for the minimum number of employees required to operate our KG program. It does not relate to an additional \$150,000 needed for curriculum, supplies, and other materials necessary to operate.

The Pendleton School District is also budgeting for another \$300,000 deficit for grades 1-12, bringing our total deficit to \$750,000 for the 2015-16 school year. This total is based on us being successful passing our Local Option Tax on May 19<sup>th</sup> which is \$470,000, and if fails would mean a total deficit of over \$1.2M. District officials are currently planning for \$750,000 in reductions and, as we have done several times in the past six years, we will be forced to consider all options ---- including staff reductions, the elimination of programs, and a shortened school year.

In Pendleton, this legislative budget is a step backwards. Make no mistake, full-day KG in our district will result in more half-day programs for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders as we once again rob these students of the elective opportunities all of us benefitted from. It will also ensure that our first grade classrooms continue to house an average of 29 students, and our 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms continue to house an average of 31 students.

On behalf of the Pendleton School District Board of Directors, as husband to a teacher, and as a parent of two children who have lived through shortened school years, large class sizes, and too few elective opportunities, I urge you to make our kids – and MY KIDS -- a priority by funding schools at a minimum level of \$7.5B for the 2015-17 biennium.

Thank you for your time.



Steve Umbarger  
541-969-8153

Chair <sup>Devlin</sup> Buckley

& members of the committee

My name is Fran Rice, and I am the Facilitator of Leadership Hermiston. Many of you have hosted Leadership Hermiston participants, in Salem, and we will see some of you again on Tuesday of this week. Thank you for your warm welcome, and the knowledge that you share with us when we are in Salem.

I ~~am~~ also bring you greetings from the Eastern Oregon Women's Coalition, a non-profit, non-partisan team of women that has a history of bringing together urban leaders with a variety of people in rural Oregon. The dynamic conversations and tours result in increased understanding, ongoing contact and strong relationships. This, in turn, creates a foundation for leaders, all across the state, to focus on what unites us rather than what divides us.

We would be pleased to host you individually, or in groups, to show you how Eastern Oregon contributes, to the welfare of the State of Oregon, as well as the world.

I would encourage you to check out the displays in this fine facility, but to point you to two in particular. Before you leave today, please spend a few moments at the display by the gift shop with the hanging map, and press the buttons to show where the products from this region of Oregon go-out into the world. Also, between the tractor, on the east side of the building, and the hot-air balloon ride, is a section on the science of precision irrigation that is an important key to our success in feeding Oregon and the world.

Thank you so much for honoring us with a public hearing in our district.

~~Buckley~~  
~~Hermiston~~  
~~Buckley~~  
~~Buckley~~  
~~Buckley~~  
~~Buckley~~



## **Testimony to the Ways and Means Committee**

### **INVESTMENT IN WATER SUPPLY IS AN INVESTMENT IN OREGON'S FUTURE**

**April 11, 2015**

**Craig Reeder, Chairman**

Co-Chair Devlin, Co-Chair Buckley and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Northeast Oregon Water Association (NOWA) we would like to thank you for travelling to eastern Oregon to hear our needs and more importantly, what we can offer to Oregon's economy and future. NOWA is a non-profit organization that advocates for the protection and enhancement of our value added natural resource based economy in Northeast Oregon. Our membership includes over 140,000 acres of the highest valued food production land in Oregon as well as the counties, cities, ports, businesses and NGO's that generate over \$2 billion a year in agri-business output in our region. As you no doubt understand, the most significant natural resource issue affecting our future is a sustainable water supply.

To state the obvious, water is of paramount importance to our state. Adequate water supplies and the carrying capacity of our water and natural resources is a predominant planning guideline in most of the State's 19 Statewide Planning Goals. Issues such as over-appropriation in many of our streams, groundwater decline, and lost economic opportunities are and should remain the focal point for much needed collaborative efforts. We are at a point in this state where careful planning and optimization of our remaining water supplies is critical. To ensure sustainability it will take a methodical approach including planning, policy development, water storage, infrastructure investment, efficiency and collaboration at both the state and local level. We truly need to consider water as our most significant natural resource, not just for irrigation but for all of the needs of this State. That is why we formed NOWA and are proud to see our region unifying through these efforts to work on comprehensive fixes.

We offer the following comments and ideas in support of continued and increased sound investment in all components Oregon water management and development programs for the future of Oregon:

Significant collaboration, spearheaded by SB 839 and the tireless work of the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and Governor's Office, over the past few has led to a sound budget request by OWRD. NOWA, in partnership with multiple statewide interest groups, has offered our support (letter attached) to the 2015-2017 OWRD Budget and today we wish to highlight the critical components of that budget:

- Funding Feasibility Studies – Additional grant funding for the Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage grant program, created by SB 1069 in 2008; package #106
- Funding Water Supply Projects – Additional grant and loan funds for the Water Supply Development Account, created by SB 839 in 2013; package #113
- Support Community Water Planning – New financial and technical assistance program to support local planning efforts – as proposed in SB 266; package #115
- Reinstate and Recapitalize Water Development Loan Fund – Revitalizes former loan program to provide additional financing options for water projects; package #120
- Increased Data Collection and Coordination – Strengthens core agency functions and supports the Integrated Water Resources programs, including staff for more efficient data sharing and management; packages #105, #110.

Together, these packages prepare the state to develop a holistic and effective approach to tackle Oregon's water management issues and, hopefully, lead long-term water sustainability for current and future generations of Oregonians. We request that you fully fund these packages and give OWRD the tools they need to fix our water supply and management problems.

Two other organizations that we see as having tremendous payback to the state and our region are the "Statewides" - the extension service, experiment stations, and forest research labs and the Regional Solutions group. Our local experiment stations are vital to many of our operations and we support them with any means necessary including significant local funding. The tangible paybacks to agriculture research and extension are monetarily large and very well quantified. With regard to the Oregon Solutions process, over the past few years, we have been able to construct projects that provide not only significant job creation and economic benefit but also contain the necessary social and environmental sideboards and benefits. NOWA and our region would not be where we are today without the leadership and collaborative framework provided us by this process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and thank you for your interest and commitment to enhancing opportunity and quality of life in rural Oregon.



April 9, 2015

To: Co-Chair Devlin, Co-Chair Rayfield, and Members of the  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

RE: Water Investments in the 2015-2017 Budget



OREGON  
ASSOCIATION OF  
NURSERIES



The  
Freshwater Trust



LEAGUE  
of Oregon  
CITIES



Association of  
Oregon Counties



SPECIAL DISTRICTS  
ASSOCIATION OF OREGON



Oregon Water Resources Congress



NORTHEAST  
OREGON  
WATER ASSOCIATION

Co-Chair Devlin, Co-Chair Rayfield, and Members of the Subcommittee:

We are writing to voice our strong support for the State's investment in water resources as outlined in the Governor's proposed 2015-2017 Budget. We are a diverse group of water stakeholders with a common goal: to advocate for common sense water policies that move Oregon's economy, communities, and environment toward a secure water future. We commend your continued hard work in crafting a balanced budget that meets the needs of all Oregonians and ask that you include investments in water supply management and development in your final budget package.

There are several key funding areas for the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD) that we request be included in the 2015-2017 Budget:

- **Funding Feasibility Studies** – Additional grant funding for the Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage grant program, created by SB 1069 in 2008; *package #106*
- **Funding Water Supply Projects** – Additional grant and loan funds for the Water Supply Development Account, created by SB 839 in 2013; *package #113*
- **Support Community Water Planning** – New financial and technical assistance program to support local planning efforts – as proposed in SB 266; *package #115*
- **Reinstate and Recapitalize Water Development Loan Fund** – Revitalizes former loan program to provide additional financing options for water projects; *package #120*
- **Increased Data Collection and Coordination** – Strengthens core agency functions and supports the Integrated Water Resources programs, including staff for more efficient data sharing and management; *packages #105, #110.*

In light of climate change and recurring drought in the west, it is imperative that Oregon make a concerted investment in water resources now. Our neighbors in Washington, and more recently California, have invested extraordinary sums of public funding toward water supply planning and development to address water challenges that are facing all Western states. Investing in Oregon's water supply today through these important programs will ensure that future generations have adequate water supplies that support thriving communities, flourishing industries, and healthy ecosystems.

The Oregon Legislature has already taken a step in the right direction with the passage of both SB 1069 and SB 839; which fund water project feasibility studies and water supply development respectively. However, the costs associated with planning for and meeting our water needs greatly exceed available resources. The next step is to fund locally-driven planning processes and increased data collection and coordination by WRD that will enable areas across the state to address water-related challenges and opportunities. While the rulemaking process is still underway on implementing parts of SB 839, it is important that the 2015-2017 Budget contains critically needed resources for these three programs (planning, feasibility and implementation) so that we can begin to address some of the more vexing water-related challenges across our state.

Finally, recapitalization and revitalization of the Water Development Loan program is a huge step forward in both recognizing and supporting our state's needs for water supply projects. Providing bond financing for water supply projects is a critical component to the overall water supply puzzle that is also a wise investment as the funds are repaid. As a whole, providing funding for the aforementioned components in the 2015-2017 Budget will not only help Oregon make progress in its diverse water supply needs, it will also strengthen our state's economy, empower local communities, and assist in restoring the environment we all share.

Thank you for considering Oregon's water supply needs in your ongoing efforts to provide a balanced budget for the 2015-2017 biennium.

Sincerely,  
Association of Oregon Counties  
The Freshwater Trust  
The League of Oregon Cities  
Northeast Oregon Water Association

Oregon Association of Nurseries  
Oregon Water Resources Congress  
Special Districts Association of Oregon

Testimony

April 11, 2015

Joint Full Committee Ways and Means

Re: HB3012

Lindsay A. Ball

Vice-Chair, Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board for  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife in association with  
Oregon State University



For the Record I am Lindsay Ball, currently reside in Pendleton Oregon.

I am the Vice Chair on the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board and I come before you today to speak in favor of the passage of HB 3012.

As proposed, HB3012 will generate an estimated 1.2 million dollars per biennium to stimulate research at the Oregon Hatchery Research Center. The money generated by the bill would be "other fund" money from license and poundage fees, not from the state general fund.

Please be reminded that during the 2013 Legislative session, you (the legislature) passed the bill that changed the configuration of the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board and caused it to have a closer tie to the Oregon legislature.

The Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State University concluded the pressing need for a dedicated funding source specific to fishery research. We cannot be dependent upon grants and donations to further our work. Depending on grant dollars has not worked well the last ten years. We can do more with a dedicated funding source.

I'd like the opportunity to visit with you individually in your office, your district to discuss the value of the Hatchery Research Center and the Geo-Magnetic Field Experiment and results. This research has proven to be of international interest.

There is more to do and with the passage of HB3012 we will surely accomplish more.

My second request for your consideration today is for a fish geneticist position in conjunction with the Hatchery Research Center through a partnership between Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State University. With Oregon State University plans for expansion of the Hatfield Marine Science Center including a genome laboratory, the inclusion of a fish geneticist position will prove advantageous to Oregon's fishery management. I recommend a fish geneticist be employed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is Carolyn Jacobs and I'm a Certificated Master Gardener. I graduated in 2014 after completing the eight week Classroom training offered by the OSU Extension Services Umatilla County Master Gardener's Program at BMCC.

Since becoming a MG:

I volunteered to work with Veteran MG's that support the Headstart Manager in Hermiston in making the "Loving Spadeful's Community Garden a success for all. The MG's worked two Demonstration plots in the community garden using the skills of research and classroom knowledge they gained thru the MG's program. The MG's give their grown vegetables from their plots to the Gape House. Being on site, MG's were able to answering any questions on the spot for the beginner gardeners.

I've volunteered to be the MG's Coordinator for the upcoming "Arts Festival" this May in downtown Hermiston. MG's will be providing Plants for sale, that they have grown from seeds.

I've volunteered to work the On-Call hot line with veteran MG's that provide help to the people in the

community to solve problems they are have with their gardens, trees, insects or diseases.

At each MG monthly meeting, we had a guest speaker, like Jan Lohman of Vassa Farms talk to the MG's about Pollinators with samples of the bee hives.

Overall, I see the Master Gardener Program thru the OSU extension services continuing to grow each year, as the MG's go out into Hermiston, Milton-Freewater, Pendleton and surrounding areas to help people grow fresh vegetable for their table and giving one on one classes when ask. Also MG's continue going to or taking educational seminar series, workshops, and conferences to improve their individual skills and knowledge to better serve Umatilla County.

With food price continuing to go up. People need an alternative route to have fresh vegetables even if it's a small Container patio garden or a single row next to their house.

All the MG's have seen the joy it bring to individual's when they see that they can grow their first vegetables like a tomato, head of lettuce or peppers.

Thank You

Senate Bill 657 -

814 SW 44<sup>th</sup>  
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

April 11, 2015

Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Greetings Subcommittee on Human Services;

My name is Katherine Palmer and I live in Pendleton, Oregon. I have a son with Intellectual Disabilities and he's 25 years old and he lived at home till he was 19 years old.

In the 1980's, before my son was born, institutions for people with I/DD, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, throughout the nation started to downsize their populations and community presence and awareness had started. In 2009, my son graduated from Pendleton High School and Oregon closed the last state institution for individuals with I/DD. Community involvement has been changing for people with I/DD in the last 30 years.

Now it is 2015, community inclusion is still developing in Oregon for people with I/DD. I ask for the Ways and Means committee to support the process by 1) continue funding to improve employment outcomes for people with I/DD and 2) keep the promise of community housing opportunities for people with I/DD and restore the Fairview Trust.

I have friends with disabilities and their families ask me where they can work after they finish school. I have listened to employers enquiring how they can include individuals with disabilities. The process is in motion and Oregon needs to support people that want to work and employers ready to employ individuals that are ready to work.

A friend of my son, has asked me how he can find a place to live on his own. This man is in his 50's and has always lived with others, he has community employment and is ready to have his own place. Oregon needs to keep community housing opportunities open to support people ready to live on their own.

Thank you for your time and thank you for coming to Eastern Oregon and visiting with concerned individuals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Palmer". The script is cursive and fluid.

Katherine Palmer  
541-276-5047

## **Full Ways and Means Committee Public Hearing**

SAGE Center, Boardman

12:30-2pm Saturday, April 11, 2015

Arthur J. Hill  
2514 SW Marshall Avenue  
Pendleton OR 97801

Honorable Co-Chairs, Committee members, and fellow Oregonians. For the past 13 years, I have served Blue Mountain Community College as Vice President for Economic Development. Today I address you as a private citizen with direct experience of the vital role our community colleges play in our state, regional and local economies. Today's community colleges are training tomorrow's workforce, and employers right here at the Port of Morrow have told us that a skilled workforce is their highest priority. BMCC provides these employers with not only skilled new employees, but training for existing employees, small business development for their suppliers, apprenticeships for their licensed trades, on-site training for supervisors and workers, skills assessment to national standards.

These economic development programs may not be as visible as traditional degree and certificate programs, but they are every bit as important to our business communities. A couple of weeks ago Jayne Clarke, owner of Pioneer Construction in Pendleton testified about the importance of BMCC's Small Business Development Center to her 13 million dollar company. What you may not know is that BMCC also offers a 27-hour series of webcasts for ODOT contractors like Jayne statewide, offering them the same expertise and tools that Jayne used to grow her company into one of the State's most highly certified asphalt, aggregate and heavy construction companies.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. BMCC staff serve on local, regional and State economic development commissions, boards and associations; work closely with economic development districts; staff public-private partnerships with site selectors and developers; and participate in federally funded projects that leverage State investments.

Our community college commitment extends to every sector of business and industry from precision agriculture to healthcare, early childhood education to advanced manufacturing, natural resources to unmanned aerial systems, transportation to tourism. BMCC is as engaged on Main Street as we are in the laboratory and classroom. Our communities know this. Our employers know this, and you know this.

As you give thoughtful consideration to the funding of community colleges, I urge you to look beyond the obvious and support the value that our employers and communities place on the contributions of Oregon's community colleges not only to workforce and business development, but to the economic development of our region and the entire State.

Thank you.



# BMCC at a Glance

www.bluecc.edu

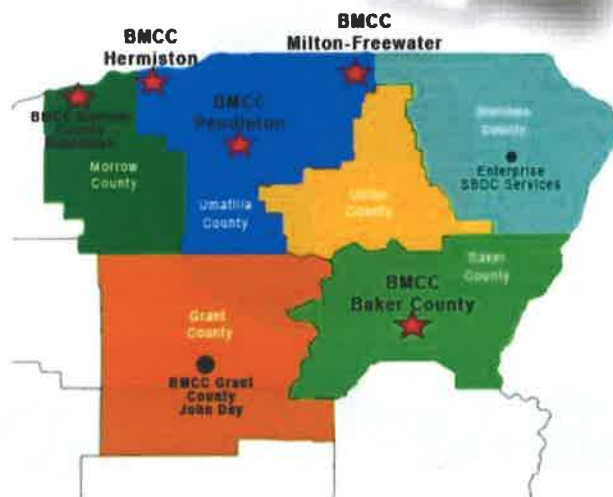
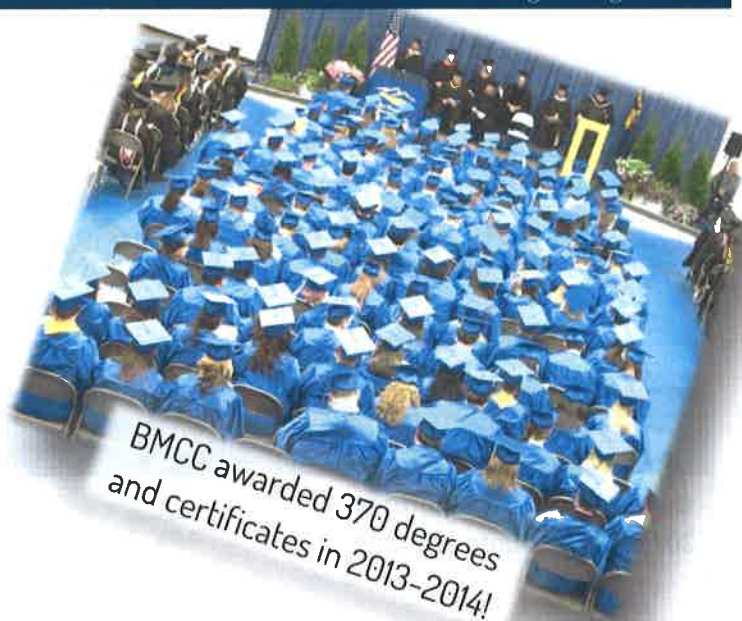
Building success.  
Strengthening futures.

## Annual Enrollment 2013-2014

<b>Total Full Time Equivalency (FTE)</b>	2,579.2
Reimbursable FTE	2,258.1
<b>Total headcount</b>	9,523
Credit headcount	4,690
Non-credit headcount	4,833
<b>Distance education headcount</b> (unduplicated: # students taking at least one DE class)	2,459
<b>Enrollment at BMCC Centers</b> (duplicated: # students taking at least one class at center)	
Pendleton	5,357
Hermiston	2,174
Milton Freewater	610
Baker City	756
Boardman	602

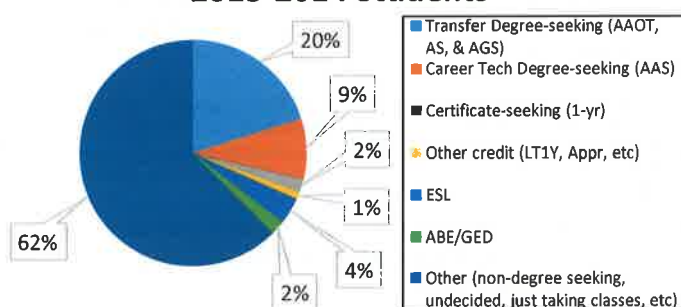
## Demographics (of all students) 2013-2014

<b>Gender</b> (does not include unknown/unreported)		
Men	4,559	47.9%
Women	4,801	50.4%
<b>Age</b> (does not include unknown/unreported)		
Less than 18	1,421	14.9%
18-24	2,879	30.2%
25-35	1,983	20.8%
36-61	2,754	28.9%
62+	414	4.3%
<b>Average age</b>		31
<b>Veterans</b> (self-reported on application)		424
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
White (non-Hispanic)	5,552	58.3%
Hispanic/Latino	2,140	22.5%
American Indian/Alaska Native	240	2.5%
Black/African American	118	1.2%
Asian	74	0.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	38	0.4%
Multi-racial	195	2.0%
Unknown/unreported	1,166	12.2%



Source of information: Office of Institutional Research

## 2013-2014 Students



### Tuition Cost Per Credit (2014-2015):

In-state (includes WA, ID, MT, NV, and CA): \$90  
Out-of-State and International: \$270

### Standard fees (apply to all students):

**Credit students:** Admission fee: \$25 for degree-seeking students; Technology Fee: \$9/credit; Universal fee: \$18/term; ASG Fee: \$1.50/credit  
**Non-credit students:** Tuition: varies; Technology fee: \$9/course

### Other fees (apply to specific students):

Distance Education fee: \$75/course  
ITV Course fee: \$25/course at receiving location

### Senior Citizen costs: (Senior is 62 or older)

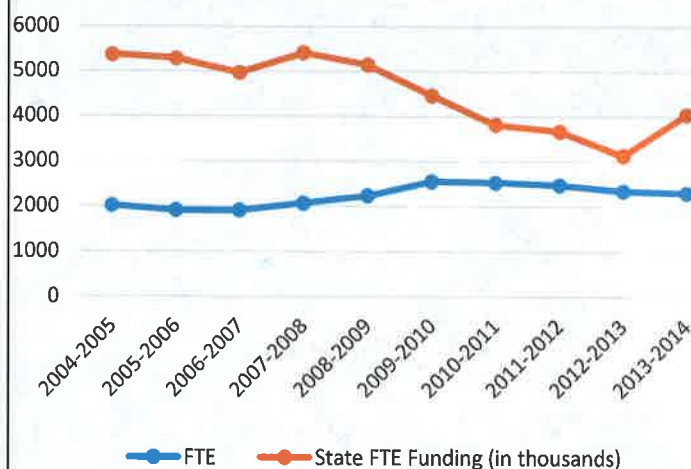
Credit course: 50% of tuition + all applicable fees;  
Non-credit course: \$34/course + all applicable fees

**Other course/program fees:** Varies; see BMCC website for current information

This document is available in alternate formats by calling the BMCC Student Disability Services office at 541-278-5958.

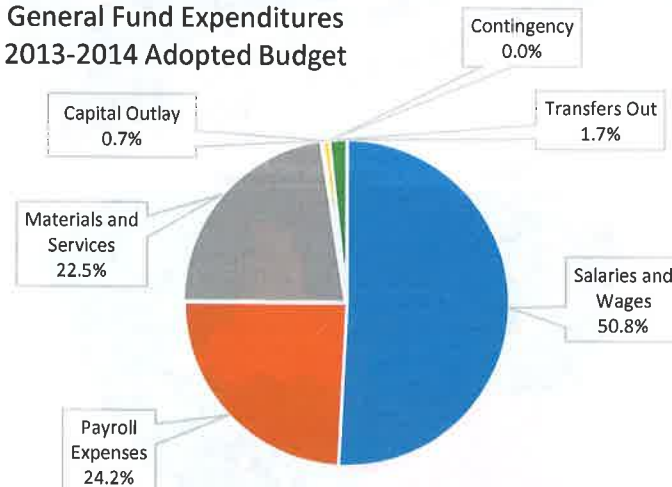


## Enrollment vs. State Funding-10 Years



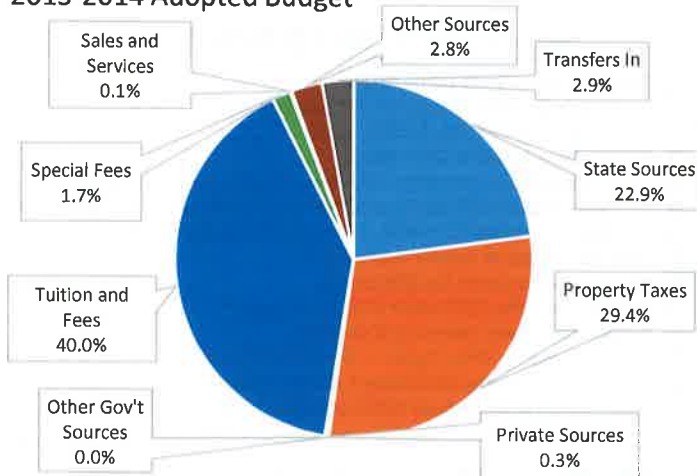
## 2013-2014 College Expenditures

### General Fund Expenditures 2013-2014 Adopted Budget



## 2013-2014 College Revenue

### 2013-2014 Adopted Budget



## About the College

- **Transfers:** 15% of students in 2012-2013 transferred to a four-year university within one year.
- **Where our students typically transfer to:** EOU, OSU, WWCC, UoO, LBCC
- **Retention:** 40% of credit students who did not graduate in 2012-2013 returned for at least one credit class in 2013-2014.
- **Matriculates:** 1,389 students applied for 2013-2014 admission and 85% of those subsequently attended
- **Socioeconomic Diversity:** Among credit students, 20% report being first-generation and 30% receive financial assistance
- **Financial Aid stats:** 4151 students applied for aid with over \$8.3 million awarded to 1426 students

Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) is a comprehensive community college committed to providing a premier learning environment and support for student success. Program areas include professional technical certificates and degrees, college transfer degrees, college preparatory and adult basic skills training, workforce development programs, continuing education, and community education. BMCC offers students quality instruction, affordable tuition, small class sizes, and student support services like tutoring, computer labs, academic advising, and disability accommodations.

BMCC serves four counties in northeastern Oregon—Baker, Grant, Morrow, and Umatilla—through its locations in Pendleton, Hermiston, Baker City, Milton-Freewater, Boardman, and John Day. In addition, BMCC provides selected on-site services to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. BMCC uses distance education learning modalities to serve residents of the region as well as a small number of students from around the world. BMCC also partners with local high schools to provide dual credit, Expanded Option, and Eastern Promise opportunities.

On average, BMCC employs 623 full-time and part-time persons (including students), with an annual payroll of over \$10.1 million dollars.

### Board of Directors

Lea Mathieu – Zone 1 (term expires 2015)  
 Werner Buehler – Zone 2 (term expires 2015)  
 Ed Taber – Zone 3 (term expires 2017)  
 Kim Puzey – Zone 4 (term expires 2017)  
 Doug Voyles – Zone 5 (term expires 2015)  
 Dr. Anthony Turner – Zone 6 (term expires 2017)  
 Bryan Branstetter – Zone 7 (term expires 2015)

### Administration

Cam Preus – President  
 Diane Drebin – VP, Student Affairs  
 Dan Lange – VP, Instruction  
 Jim Whittaker – Interim VP, Instruction  
 Art Hill – VP, Workforce and Economic Development

### Mission

Blue Mountain Community College will realize its vision by providing high-quality programs for college preparation, college transfer, career/technical, workforce development, and self-improvement that will strengthen the economy and provide opportunities for personal and professional growth.

The College provides dynamic and innovative programs and delivery methods in response to the changing needs of our customers: the students, businesses, industries, and communities of eastern Oregon.

*If you have additional questions, please feel free to call the President's Office at 541-278-5951*

*Blue Mountain Community College is an equal opportunity educator and employer.*



# 2013 Economic Impact



Through our work with clients around the state, we help create new jobs and improve the economic vitality of Oregon. Our 2013 economic impacts include:



**5,861** clients counseled

**1,583** women owned

**428** veteran owned

**411** minority owned

**2,850**  
pre-venture  
businesses  
counseled

**3,011**  
existing  
businesses  
counseled

**11,396**  
people attended our  
**1,622** training events

**221** new  
businesses started



**1,932**  
jobs were created  
and retained  
with our help



**\$36,601,280**  
in capital infusion



## Hermiston School District 8R

502 W. Standard Avenue, Hermiston, Oregon 97838-1890

Phone: (541) 667-6000 Fax: (541) 667-6050

www.hermiston.k12.or.us

### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Fred R. Maiocco, Jr., Ph.D.  
Superintendent

Wade Smith  
Deputy Superintendent

Bryn Browning  
Assistant Superintendent

Briana Cortaberria  
Communications Officer and  
Executive Assistant to the  
Superintendent and Board

Mike Kay  
Executive Director  
Operations

Jon Mishra, Ed.D.  
Executive Director  
Special Programs

Mattias Rahm  
Technology Director

Katie Saul  
Business Manager

Betsy Heath  
Chartwells Food Service

Cindy Nicholson  
Mid Columbia Bus Co.

### PRINCIPALS

Jocelyn Jones  
Hermiston High School

Tom Spoo  
Armand Larive Middle School

Larry Usher  
Sandstone Middle School

Michael Roberts  
Desert View Elementary

Brad Bixler  
Highland Hills Elementary

B.J. Wilson  
Rocky Heights Elementary

Devin Grigg  
Sunset Elementary

Kevin Headings  
West Park Elementary

April 9, 2015

Oregon State Legislature  
Joint Ways and Means Committee  
900 Court St. NE, H-178  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Written Testimony Regarding Education Funding in the State of Oregon

Honorable Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

The recently passed education funding bill (HB 5017) specifies a level of \$7.255 Billion for K-12 schools for the upcoming 2015-17 biennium. The purpose of this letter is to let you know what this funding level really means to the Hermiston School District (HSD).

Bottom line up front: \$7.255 Billion is insufficient to maintain current programming. As proposed, HSD will see its General Purpose Grant Revenue per Extended ADMw grow by \$69, or 1%, from \$6,806 in 2014-15 to \$6,875 in 2015-16 based on estimates from ODE (12/5/2014 and 3/23/2015, respectively). This 1% growth appears to be related the accounting artifice of imposing a 50-50% biennial allocation, which is inconsistent with the recent historical funding precedent (49-51% split over the last several biennia). Using the more traditional allocation mechanism would have resulted in a reduction of \$111 for HSD in grant revenue per extended ADMw from \$6,806 in 2014-15 to \$6,695 in 2015-2016 (ODE estimates dated 12/5/2014 and 2/23/2015, respectively). In essence, the proposed legislation is insufficient and seeks to simply shift the costs of program escalation to local districts. If the proposed funding level is finally approved by the Legislature, we intend to defer some resources from 2015-16 to 2016-17 in order to ensure prudent fiscal stewardship throughout the entire term of the biennium, essentially imposing our own 49-51% split.

Student enrollment growth and programming reductions. HSD's extended ADMw grows by 366, or 5.8%, from 6,282 in 2014-15 to 6,648 in 2015-16 reflecting not just higher enrollment, but also increased rates for students requiring specialized services. Even with the 50-50 biennial allocation now being discussed, HSD will have to plan for modest programming reductions (e.g., reduced professional development, reduced classroom supplies, increased class sizes). We consider these to be relatively modest programming reductions, which are only possible because of our growing enrollment. If we were in a period of flat or declining enrollment like neighboring districts, we would be forced to make very draconian cuts.

**"Serving the needs of all children with rigorous program choices,  
high expectations, mutual respect, and excellence in all endeavors."**

Prudent stewardship. As you know, Hermiston School District staff voluntarily gave up wage increases for four years to assure we remained financially stable during the lean years. We also partially implemented full day kindergarten in 2014-15, ahead of state funding reimbursements, for same because we believe such programming is the right investment decision for our community. During these very trying lean years, student achievement went up, at least partly because our staff understood the concept of sacrifice and focus in these most difficult of times.

Disinvestment in Education. I would contend that one of the paramount duties of the State is to ensure access to high quality public education for our citizens. Escalating program costs in other areas of the state budget continue to result in a declining share of State expenditures for public education. I believe strongly that escalating costs in other areas should not be borne by the children and communities we serve. Continued erosion of education's share of the state budget is NOT in the best interest of our students, our community, or our state, and it arguably exacerbates the problem of declining revenues.

What is reasonably required? Education funding is an investment in both the present and the future. In HSD, we are getting results. A statewide SSF budget for K-12 of at least \$7.5 Billion is required to maintain current programming levels. We also recommend a return to the 49-51% biennial allocation model consistent with recent historical trends.

Please let me know if I can answer any other questions you may have.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fred Maiocco", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Fred Maiocco  
Superintendent of Schools

April 11, 2015

Esteemed Ways and Means Committee Members,

First, I would also like to express appreciation for you coming to eastern Oregon and listening to our good people. We have many challenges in Oregon, and your job is not easy. But, we appreciate what you do.

In 1993 I began my first teaching job in Oregon, after 3 years of teaching in Nevada. Both my wife and I were raised in Oregon and we had a desire to return closer to home. However, in returning to Oregon, I had to take a substantial pay cut. To deal with the loss of income, we had to sell our new mini-van, the first (and last) brand new car that we have owned as a family, and we bought an old, used Chevy station wagon for \$900. We drove it for several years until it would drive no more. We did all of this because we love this great state and the people who live here.

Before that first year teaching in Oregon was over, I was informed that due to budget cuts my position as the school media specialist was being cut. Though later on the position was re-instated, I was devastated at the time. Now, looking back, I realize that compared to today those were the good ol' days for school funding in Oregon. Most students today have never even attended a school with a media specialist.

In Umatilla School District we've gone through some tough downsizing over the past 6 years. Things have become tight, teachers have taken on greater loads, and students have less options. Every time we've gone through such cuts, we've done it thinking that things would eventually turn around and get better. Unfortunately they haven't.

Now we're facing even more downsizing, more cuts, and more lost opportunities for students. It's time to fix school funding for good, and we can't wait another two years to do it. The situation is already dire.

Every teacher, administrator and school employee that I know, does what they do because they care about the students and the future of this state. And, because of that, we will continue to soldier on. But, we're getting weary. Teachers are working long hours (much more than a 40 hour week). Class sizes are growing out of control, to the point where you can hardly walk across a classroom (because of the wall-to-wall desks). It is not easy work, but we do it because it's important and we care.

Please, when you go back to Salem, consider the dire circumstances that K-12 schools are facing, and see what you can do to fix things. It's not just important for the future of our state, it's vital.

Thank you,

David Lougee  
ESL/Migrant Coordinator  
Umatilla School District

## **Full Ways and Means Committee Public Hearing**

SAGE Center, Boardman

12:30-2pm Saturday, April 11, 2015

Arthur J. Hill  
2514 SW Marshall Avenue  
Pendleton OR 97801

Honorable Co-Chairs, Committee members, and fellow Oregonians. For the past 13 years, I have served Blue Mountain Community College as Vice President for Economic Development. Today I address you as a private citizen with direct experience of the vital role our community colleges play in our state, regional and local economies. Today's community colleges are training tomorrow's workforce, and employers right here at the Port of Morrow have told us that a skilled workforce is their highest priority. BMCC provides these employers with not only skilled new employees, but training for existing employees, small business development for their suppliers, apprenticeships for their licensed trades, on-site training for supervisors and workers, skills assessment to national standards.

These economic development programs may not be as visible as traditional degree and certificate programs, but they are every bit as important to our business communities. A couple of weeks ago Jayne Clarke, owner of Pioneer Construction in Pendleton testified about the importance of BMCC's Small Business Development Center to her 13 million dollar company. What you may not know is that BMCC also offers a 27-hour series of webcasts for ODOT contractors like Jayne statewide, offering them the same expertise and tools that Jayne used to grow her company into one of the State's most highly certified asphalt, aggregate and heavy construction companies.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. BMCC staff serve on local, regional and State economic development commissions, boards and associations; work closely with economic development districts; staff public-private partnerships with site selectors and developers; and participate in federally funded projects that leverage State investments.

Our community college commitment extends to every sector of business and industry from precision agriculture to healthcare, early childhood education to advanced manufacturing, natural resources to unmanned aerial systems, transportation to tourism. BMCC is as engaged on Main Street as we are in the laboratory and classroom. Our communities know this. Our employers know this, and you know this.

As you give thoughtful consideration to the funding of community colleges, I urge you to look beyond the obvious and support the value that our employers and communities place on the contributions of Oregon's community colleges not only to workforce and business development, but to the economic development of our region and the entire State.

Thank you.

Full Ways and Means Road Show

SAGE Center, Boardman

April 11, 2015

Testimony of Camille Preus

President, Blue Mountain Community College

Thank you for coming to Eastern Oregon, for the record...

- Been at BMCC just under two years and now better understand the word “community” in the community college name
- Comprehensive community college provides the start for many looking to expand their educational and career opportunities
- Affordable community college education has never been more important
- Critical role of community college academic faculty in offering quality transfer programs for smooth transitions to universities
- CTE programs are vital as they provide the education and training for our students who want relevant hands-on training for family wage jobs
- Strength of relationship between faculty and students ensures success
- BMCC has a bond measure to garner local voter support for new facilities
  - Leverage public and private partners
- Your support with matching Article XI-G bond dollars is essential
- 550 million is essential to keep education affordable in rural Oregon

Thank You

Co-chairs & committee members thank you for allowing me an opportunity to speak to you today. It is nice to be able to do so close to home rather than traveling to Salem. My name is Tina Martinez and I have taught Sociology at BMCC for the past 21 years. First I want to let you know that I wouldn't be here if not for the opportunities I received many years ago at my local community college in California. I was like lots of nineteen year olds, unsure of the direction I would take with my life. I was fortunate to live right near my local community college. I attended Cypress College for two years where I had the freedom to explore and grow. It was here that I discovered the path I wanted to take. What made this opportunity so special was I was able to do so without incurring any debt. In California in 1974 Community College was free. I was lucky indeed. This enabled me to get the first two years of my college degree living at home without incurring any debt.

Today this is virtually unheard of. I came to Blue Mountain 21 years ago. At the time students paid approximately \$35 per credit hour. Not free, but still a bargain. Over the past 21 years this has changed drastically, less money has been available from the state, yet the cost of running the college has increased. In order to continue providing students with a quality education it has been necessary for the college to raise tuition. In just two decades tuition at Blue Mountain has increased nearly 200% to \$94 a credit hour for the 2015-16 academic year. The burden has been shifted to the students. The consequences of these increases have played out as follows: More student loans, the necessity for students to work while attending school and unfortunately for some the inability to attend school.

The loss of funding from the state has had drastic consequences for Blue Mountain. We have experienced cuts to programs. We have had to lay off full-time faculty necessitating the use of adjunct faculty. Adjunct faculty are often available only at certain hours not necessarily when students need the classes. Additionally, in rural Eastern Oregon it is often difficult to find qualified people. This impacts the availability and quality of our programs.

As a Sociologist I know the importance of an education. In a service oriented economy an education is increasingly important. Data shows that the best investment one can make is in one's education. Unfortunately for many students this means that they will leave college with an inordinate amount of debt. We can and must do better for our future generation. Investing in schools invests in our community's future. An educated populace helps the whole community, not just the individual student. Businesses have better employees, citizens have better paying jobs, and the state has a stronger tax base. One of the best investments we can make is investing in human capital – it makes a difference for all of us.

I strongly encourage you to increase the budget available for community colleges so that we can do the best job possible of preparing our students for the future.



**Testimony to Joint Ways and Means Committee**

**Saturday, April 11**

**SAGE Center, Boardman, Oregon**

Afternoon, FOR THE RECORD my name is Ashley Clark, I'm the Vice President of the Associated Student Government at Blue Mountain Community College.

BMCC hasn't just been an academic experience for me, I've been immersed in community efforts, social and political causes, and I've been mentored by such influential and supportive staff.

BMCC feels like MY college because I've had such a personalized experience through the generous stock of resources BMCC offers.

It goes without saying that we are a gem in Eastern Oregon.

I believe we can continue to produce such impactful results given the continual support of the state of Oregon.

For when our institution is invested in, our students are invested in, ten fold.

We've been crusading open education resources for students to provide a more affordable education.

But we rely on the aid of our state as a whole.

Though there's 16 other community colleges in Oregon, Blue Mountain stands apart in its success stories, despite the nationwide struggles in education funding.

With the support of its state, I hope to see BMCC provide Oregon students with quality education for decades to come.

- Ashley

## **Full Ways and Means Committee Public Hearing**

SAGE Center, Boardman

12:30-2pm Saturday, April 11, 2015

Arthur J. Hill  
2514 SW Marshall Avenue  
Pendleton OR 97801

Honorable Co-Chairs, Committee members, and fellow Oregonians. For the past 13 years, I have served Blue Mountain Community College as Vice President for Economic Development. Today I address you as a private citizen and taxpayer with direct experience of the vital role our community colleges play in our state, regional and local economies. Today's community colleges are training tomorrow's workforce, and employers right here at the Port of Morrow have told us that a skilled workforce is their highest priority. BMCC provides these employers with not only skilled new employees, but training for existing employees, small business development for their suppliers, apprenticeships for their licensed trades, on-site training for supervisors and workers, skills assessment to national standards.

These economic development programs may not be as visible as traditional degree and certificate programs, but they are every bit as important to our business communities. A couple of weeks ago Jayne Clarke, owner of Pioneer Construction in Pendleton testified about the importance of BMCC's Small Business Development Center to her 13 million dollar company. What you may not know is that BMCC also offers a 27-hour series of webcasts for ODOT contractors like Jayne statewide, offering them the same expertise and tools that Jayne used to grow her company into one of the State's most highly certified asphalt, aggregate and heavy construction companies.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. BMCC staff serve on local, regional and State economic development commissions, boards and associations; work closely with economic development districts; staff public-private partnerships with site

selectors and developers; and participate in federally funded projects that leverage State investments.

Our community college commitment extends to every sector of business and industry from precision agriculture to healthcare, early childhood education to advanced manufacturing, natural resources to unmanned aerial systems, transportation to tourism. BMCC is as engaged on Main Street as we are in the laboratory and classroom. Our communities know this. Our employers know this, and you know this.

As you give thoughtful consideration to the funding of community colleges, I urge you to look beyond the obvious and support the value that our employers and communities place on the contributions of Oregon's community colleges not only to workforce and business development, but to the economic development of our region and the entire State.

Thank you.