



CONNIE GREEN, INTERIM PRESIDENT  
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April 19, 2019

Dear Chairman Girod and Chairman Holvey, and members of the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you regarding the regional workforce and agricultural training center in Pendleton (aka, "FARM II") project, a partnership between Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC), the City of Pendleton, Umatilla County, the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon, the Port of Umatilla and the InterMountain Education Service District.

BMCC apologizes for not being able to attend the Friday, April 19, 2019, hearing for public testimony on Lottery Bond Authorization. BMCC had already scheduled its all-employee spring in-service training for this day, which is mandatory for all full-time employees, including the President. I know you'll understand this reason for my absence.

BMCC and its community partners seek \$8 million in Lottery funds from the Oregon Legislature to move forward with construction of this facility. The partners are committed to this project, and have shown as much through financial contributions of \$150,000 each from the Port of Umatilla, City of Pendleton and Umatilla County, as well as the donation of approximately \$5 million in acquisition of land for the project. The Legislature also allocated \$5 million in Article XI-G capital construction bonds in 2017 toward making this project a reality for our region.

This unprecedented collaboration between the partnering organizations will develop a facility that will be used for regional and Career-Technical Education (CTE) training and economic and tourism opportunities. It will house classrooms, lab space and an indoor arena for providing unique regional degrees for applied animal science, prioritizing the development of a veterinary technician program; hands-on CTE opportunities for area high school students; advanced workshops, clinics and trainings for agriculture and livestock industries that utilize emerging technologies, including drone usage in agriculture, animal management and husbandry; a home for BMCC's national champion men's and women's rodeo teams; and equine and livestock events and trade shows in a year-round event center.

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BMCC believes its strong relationships with community partners will create a facility that will benefit the region, as well as the Pacific Northwest, with relevant industry training and education, and an attractive location for economic development and tourism opportunities. The collaboration between partners brings to the project a variety of perspectives, ideas and networks to ensure the facility meets the needs of the region in the most effective, efficient ways possible.

Working groups to further develop the educational and workforce training programs, as well as the operational plan for the facility, are in progress for finalization of details in June 2019. BMCC and its partners stand ready to bring this project to life with the support from the Legislature during the 2019 Session.

We thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Constance Green, Interim President

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