

## **Broadband USA Applications Database**

**Applicant Name:** Blue Mountain Community College

**Project Title:** Serving the Disadvantaged Through Public Computer Centers in Rural Northeastern Oregon

**Project Type:** Public Computer Center

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### **Executive Summary**

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Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) proposes to establish uniformly equipped, and technologically current, public computer centers at each of its five primary locations in rural northeastern Oregon: Baker City, Boardman, Hermiston, Milton-Freewater, and Pendleton. The region is economically distressed and characterized by low educational attainment. The overall project goals are to provide access to broadband service for disadvantaged populations in the numerous small communities served by the BMCC centers and to provide users with broadband education, awareness, training, and hands-on experience to improve skills and knowledge of the "what and how" for broadband adoption and sustained utilization.

The new public computer centers will enable BMCC to deliver, via distance education, a much larger array of instruction and training programs than its currently limited capacity allows. Through the centers, users will have access to BMCC's comprehensive programmatic offerings, adult basic education classes (adult basic skills, ESL, GED), career and technical education certificates and degrees, transfer degrees, community and continuing education, workforce development customized training, small-business and farm-management programs, and the training and testing required to achieve all levels of the national Career Readiness Certificate.

Each of the five computer centers will be configured with "thin client" technology, with each of the center servers networked via broadband utilization to a central administrative function at the BMCC Pendleton computer center.