

AGREEMENT

between

Washington State University Tri-Cities and Blue Mountain Community College

INTRODUCTION

The parties enter into this agreement ("Agreement") in order to benefit both Washington State University Tri-Cities ("WSU" or WSU Tri-Cities") and Blue Mountain Community College ("BMCC") (separately, the "Party", together, the "Parties") in the education of students in the Tri-Cities region. To help students efficiently earn their bachelor's degree, WSU Tri-Cities and BMCC will develop a transfer program called *Bridges*.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Bridges program is intended to boost four-year public university degree attainment in the mid-Columbia region. It enables students to begin an Associate of Arts – Oregon Transfer (AAOT) or Associate of Science Oregon Transfers (ASOT/Bus, ASOT/CS) at BMCC and declare their intent to finish their Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science (BA/BS) degree at WSU Tri-Cities.

Bridges provide a seamless process designed to serve the needs of students in northeast Oregon and surrounding communities to reduce many of the barriers that can occur for transfer students upon matriculation into a four-year university or college.

Students who participate in the Bridges program are expected to abide by the catalog and code of conduct for the institution at which they are enrolled.

TERM

This Agreement is effective upon execution by the Parties and will continue thereafter from academic year to academic year unless terminated as provided in this Agreement. However, the Parties shall review this Agreement yearly, or earlier at the request of either Party, to assess the program and address any changes that may be needed.

TERMINATION

This Agreement may be terminated by either Party upon 60 days' written notice to the other Party. Provided however, such termination shall not become effective for the students then participating in the Bridges program, if such termination prevents the completion of the requirements for their college transfer degree at BMCC or their BA/BS degree at WSU Tri-Cities.

DECLARATION OF INTENT

Each student wishing to enter the Bridges program shall complete a Declaration of Intent within their first four quarters at BMCC. The Declaration of Intent must be signed by the student, a BMCC navigator, and WSU Tri-Cities advisor.

The Declaration of Intent will supply the necessary FERPA releases so WSU Tri-Cities staff can work directly with BMCC staff to obtain all of the student information needed to provide seamless academic advising, admissions, and financial aid services to the student as they transition.

Students who have completed the Declaration of Intent shall be identified as "declared Bridges students" until they are admitted to WSU Tri-Cities as degree-seeking students.

Declared Bridges students are expected to maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) to remain in good standing.

Not enrolling at BMCC for one academic year (i.e., four consecutive quarters) will invalidate a student's status in the Bridges program. They can opt back in during the first quarter they return to BMCC by re-submitting a Declaration of Intent.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

BMCC and WSU Tri-Cities will hold an information session during each fall and winter quarter of the academic year that will be open to all transfer-eligible BMCC students and other prospective students. The purposes of the sessions are to:

- Explain Bridges and its benefits.
- Invite students to join Bridges and provide the Declaration of Intent to those interested in Bridges.
- Highlight information about policies and procedures, advising, financial aid, scholarships, student organizations, and other student services.
- Provide students the opportunity to meet faculty and academic advisors to learn about their academic areas of interest.
- Share information about research and internship opportunities.

In addition to the formal Bridges information sessions, WSU Tri-Cities admissions staff will also have access to BMCC's student success workshops, freshman seminars, orientations, or other appropriate classes to give admissions presentations.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Declaration into Bridges provides students access to WSU Tri-Cities advisors and admissions staff who will have dedicated office space at BMCC in Hermiston at no cost. The appointment schedule will be managed by BMCC staff.

Declared Bridges students are required to meet with a WSU Tri-Cities advisor each quarter they are enrolled at BMCC to review their BMCC course schedule and verify that courses will transfer to WSU Tri-Cities.

WSU Tri-Cities staff will work with declared Bridges students to help them meet priority admission application deadlines.

TRANSFER GUIDES

WSU Tri-Cities will maintain transfer guides that outline all the BMCC courses that can be used to satisfy WSU major requirements. BMCC Success Coaches will advise students about how to fit the recommended courses to fulfill BMCC graduation requirements.

These transfer guides will be maintained by WSU Tri-Cities and shared with BMCC navigators. These guides will be posted on both BMCC and WSU Tri-Cities web pages.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must satisfy the Graduation Requirements in the BMCC Catalog to graduate from BMCC with a recognizable, transferable degree.

Graduation from WSU requires fulfillment of the University graduation requirements published in the WSU Catalog, as well as the specific requirements of the major. University requirements for graduation will be in effect when the student is admitted to their major at WSU Tri-Cities and will be honored up to eight years.

APPLICATION

Bridges students will go through WSU standard admissions process but will not have to pay the WSU Tri-Cities application fee. The fee may be covered either through a waiver for students who are Pell-eligible or through a dedicated fund that's managed by the BMCC Foundation.

STUDENT RECORDS

BMCC will begin a student's transcript upon their initial enrollment at BMCC, which will serve as the official transcript for the student's BMCC college transfer degree. WSU will begin a student's transcript upon their initial enrollment at WSU Tri-Cities, which will serve as the official transcript for the BA or BS.

WSU will maintain a database that includes admission, transcript, and other relevant data for each declared Bridges student. BMCC and WSU Tri-Cities will exchange student data as needed to support the student through the program.

BMCC and WSU Tri-Cities will develop systems to exchange WSU Tri-Cities admission applications, BMCC transcripts, and other student data at no cost to the student.

CYBER LIABILITY INSURANCE

BMCC shall maintain Cyber Liability Insurance with minimum limits of no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence with \$3,000,000 aggregate. The state of Washington, its agents and employees need not be named as additional insureds under this policy.

TUITION AND FEES

Students enrolled in BMCC courses will be charged according to the current BMCC tuition and fee schedule.

Students enrolled in WSU Tri-Cities courses will be charged according to the current WSU tuition and fee schedule.

INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID CONSORTIUM

Financial Aid staff from BMCC and WSU Tri-Cities will coordinate on institutional financial aid consortium agreements, rather than create individual consortium agreements for each student who might choose to enroll at both institutions at the same time.

REVERSE TRANSFER

Students who enter WSU Tri-Cities with at least 30 transferable quarter credits (20 semester credits) from a Washington state public community college or technical college will receive the support of the Transfer Clearinghouse to complete the steps for "Reverse Transfer" which allows students to complete an associate's degree after transfer to WSU Tri-Cities. The Parties will work with eligible students to facilitate a Reverse Transfer, as may be applicable.

TUITION WAIVER

Bridges students who meet the following criteria will be eligible for the I-82 Advantage non-resident tuition waiver at WSU Tri-Cities.

- Completed the Declaration of Intent during their first academic year at BMCC.
- Graduated from BMCC with a college transfer degree before transferring to WSU Tri-Cities, or reverse transfer within their academic year (i.e., fall and spring semesters) at WSU Tri-Cities to complete their college transfer degree.
- Be in academic good standing (2.0 GPA) and meet any major GPA requirements.

Bridges students who receive the I-82 Advantage will not be eligible to also receive other non-resident tuition waivers at the time of admission as a degree-seeking student at WSU Tri-Cities.

If a Bridges student establishes residency at any time during their enrollment at WSU Tri-Cities, they will no longer qualify for the I-82 Advantage waiver.

MARKETING

Both institutions will promote Bridges through co-branding and joint marketing (e.g., logo, print and digital ads, web pages, student feature stories) managed by marketing staff from BMCC and WSU Tri-Cities.

In the event one or both institutions choose at any time to terminate this Agreement, for any reason, both institutions will immediately cease any and all use of the name or marks of the other institution which may have been in use, in any format or on any platform, in connection with the subject matter of

this Agreement, unless continued use of an such marks is expressly permitted in writing by the Party owning the marks.

BRIDGES TASKFORCE

A Bridges taskforce will meet at least quarterly to continually assess the program and identify efficiencies and effective strategies. The taskforce will include at least four members from each campus with representation from student affairs, academic affairs, and marketing.

This taskforce will explore the possibility of a shared full-time Bridges advising position that would be housed at BMCC. It will also be responsible for identifying and implementing shared celebrations to recognize students in the Bridges program.

NO COST AGREEMENT

This Agreement does not provide for any reimbursement of costs to either Party for services rendered or supplies provided during or at the end of the Agreement term. This Agreement does not provide for either Party to file claims or disputes against the other Party resulting from any service or supplies provided under this Agreement.

RECORDS MAINTENANCE

Records related to this Agreement may be subject to inspection, review or audit by personnel of both Parties, personnel duly authorized by either Party, the Office of the State Auditor, and federal officials authorized by law. All books, records, documents, and other material relevant to this Agreement shall be retained for the requisite period under record retention schedules, and the Office of the State Auditor, federal auditors, and any persons duly authorized by the Parties shall have full access and the right to examine any of these materials during this period.

Records and other documents, in any medium, furnished by one Party to this Agreement to the other Party, will remain the property of the furnishing Party, unless otherwise agreed. The receiving Party will not disclose or make available this material to any third parties without first giving notice to the furnishing Party and giving it a reasonable opportunity to respond and shall comply with RCW 42.56. Each Party will utilize reasonable security procedures and protections as required by law to assure that records and documents provided by the other Party are not erroneously disclosed to third parties.

GOVERNANCE

This Agreement is entered into pursuant to and under the authority granted by the laws of the state of Washington and any applicable federal laws. The provisions of this Agreement shall be construed to conform to those laws. The venue for any legal action arising out of this Agreement will be Benton and Franklin Counties, Washington.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

To the extent practicable, the Parties shall use their best, good faith efforts to promptly and collaboratively resolve any dispute that may arise in connection with this Agreement, and at the lowest

possible level with authority to resolve such dispute. The Parties shall make a good faith effort to continue without delay to carry out their respective responsibilities under this Agreement while attempting to resolve any such dispute. If, however, a dispute persists and cannot reasonably be resolved, it may be escalated within each organization. In such circumstance, upon notice by either Party, each Party, within five (5) business days shall reduce its description of the dispute to writing and deliver it to the other Party. The receiving Party then shall have three (3) business days to review and respond in writing. In the event that the Parties cannot then agree on a resolution of the dispute, the Parties shall schedule a conference between the respective senior administrators of each organization to attempt to resolve the dispute. In the event the Parties cannot agree on a mutual resolution within fifteen (15) business days, the parties shall abide by the Governor's dispute resolution process (RCW 43.17.330), if applicable, or collectively shall appoint a third party to evaluate and resolve the dispute and such dispute resolution shall be final and binding on the Parties.

INDEPENDENT CAPACITY

The employees or agents of each Party engaged in the performance of this Agreement shall continue to be employees or agents of that Party and shall not be considered for any purpose to be employees or agents of the other Party. Each Party is responsible for the acts or omissions of its employees, officers, agents and assigns, and is responsible for ensuring that they fulfill their responsibilities under this Agreement in compliance with the provisions of the law and regulations that govern their activities.

POINTS OF CONTACT

The Point of Contact for BMCC is:

John Fields
Executive Vice President of Instruction
and Student Success
Blue Mountain Community College
P-111
2411 NW Carden Ave.
Pendleton, OR 97801
Tel.: 541-278-5811
Email: jfields@bluecc.edu

The Point of Contacts for WSU-Tri-Cities are:

Anna Plemons
Associate Vice Chancellor for
Academic & Student Affairs
Washington State University Tri-Cities
Floyd 269F
2710 Crimson Way
Richland, WA 99354
Tel.: 509-372-7381
Email: aplemons@wsu.edu

And

Kathleen McAteer
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Washington State University Tri-Cities
Floyd 263e
2710 Crimson Way
Richland, WA 99354
Tel.: 509-372-7371
Email: kmcateer@wsu.edu

SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Agreement is held to be wholly or partially invalid or unenforceable under applicable law, that provision will be ineffective to that extent only, without in any way affecting the remaining provisions of the Agreement.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

There will be no discrimination in the performance of this Agreement on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, national origin, families with children, sex, marital status, sexual orientation (including gender identity), age, genetic history, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, in compliance with (a) Presidential Executive Order 11246, as amended, including the Equal Opportunity Clause contained therein; (b) Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974, as amended, and the Affirmative Action Clauses contained therein; (c) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended; and (d) applicable non- discrimination laws of the state of Washington. The Parties further agree they will not maintain facilities which are segregated on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin in compliance with Presidential Executive Order 11246, as amended, and will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, regarding programs, services, activities, and employment practices.

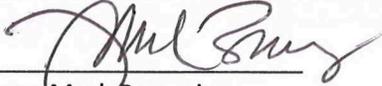
ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement contains all the terms and conditions agreed upon by the Parties. No other understandings, oral or otherwise, regarding the subject matter of this agreement shall be deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties hereto.

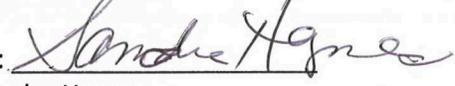
SIGNATURES

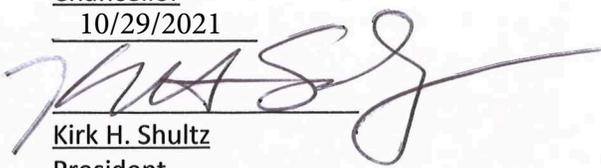
The parties affirm they have designated the persons below to have signature authority for the parties. By their signatures on this Agreement, the parties agree to comply with all of its terms and conditions

BLUE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By: 
Name: Mark Browning
Title: President
Date: 10/29/21

WSU TRI-CITIES

Recommended By: 
Name: Sandra Haynes
Title: Chancellor
Date: 10/29/2021

By: 
Name: Kirk H. Shultz
Title: President
Date: 10/29/2021