

Grant Progress Update

Reporting Period: January 30, 2023 – July 31, 2023 PR Award #: P116W220024

Institution Name: Eastern Oregon University

Project Title: Rural Post-Secondary Economic Development Grant

RPED Project Director (PD): Kathleen Brown (Associate Director of Early College Initiatives)

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Program Management

1. Are there any changes to key personnel positions? If so, explain.
Final position, Irrigon Specialist was filled in June, 2023.
2. Are there any changes to your scope, activities, or objectives? If so, explain.
We are seeing a need to have student worker support for additional development of a college-level voice and student navigator support of our students who come to events and take courses directly from us.

Program Performance –

Major Task #2: Intensify rural recruitment strategy by relocating positions to rural, regional high schools.			
Year One: 2023			
Hire recruitment advisors (RA) to be placed in rural, regional high schools.	This was shifted to three regional specialists placed in rural high schools instead. The grant is under admissions and will team up with admissions counselors to get the same effect but do more.	Projected start 5/23	Complete N/A
Train recruitment advisors and introduce to EOU staff as well as rural partner school teachers, staff, and students.	On-campus training as well as travel to rural schools.	Projected start 5/23	Complete N/A (See above)
Develop new rural-centered recruitment advising strategy.	Develop materials and coordinate with regional partners on programs primarily for high school juniors and seniors. (This is currently being done by the Regional Specialist in partnership with admissions counseling, so there is a cohesive focus to visits across all parts of EOU.	Projected start 5/23 In progress currently. Assessment by end of the school year.	Complete/On Going additions

Major Task #3: Launch Early Outreach Program to engage younger rural students with a college-going mindset. (Younger has been redefined as 7-11th grade with opportunities available for elementary on a school-by-school basis.)

Year One: 2023

Hire two (3) college engagement specialists (CES) to be placed in rural, regional ESD offices.	Three specialists and one project manager are funded with only .25 of their position to maximize effectiveness.	Projected start 3/23 Two hired expectation of the 3 rd on board by 3/15	6/23 All specialists are on board and ready to interact with all schools in August 2023.
Train staff and introduce to EOU staff as well as rural partner school teachers, staff, and students.	On-campus training as well as travel to rural schools. Staff trained and placed in their respective locations.	Projected Start 6/23 Estimated time for placement. specialists in place.	6/23 All specialists are on board and ready to interact with all schools in August 2023.
Begin planning 7 th and 8 th grade activity development. (Ongoing annually)	Coordinating with schools and on-campus faculty and admissions campus visit coordinator (CVC) in order for academic-focused visits. Add focus of faculty visits out to the schools.	Projected start 1/23 Planning information sent to on campus CVC and schools shared opportunities	1/24
Retention-based focus and college-going culture in the region.	The retention-based focus of 8-12 grade and emphasis on a college-going culture in the higher grades with GPA tracking and support so students are aligned with college readiness. For example, having students come to campus for CLEP tests or going to schools that currently have students taking classes to help them stay academically aware of the current class load they are taking.	The projected start 10/23 Shift has already been set in place.	Ongoing 2/24

Major Task #4: Offer Pre-College Success Courses to remote rural students via hybrid, online, and in-person formats.

Years One through Three: 2023-2025

Provide stipends for faculty to revise the program curriculum. (Repeat in year 2)	Regular curriculum and assessment development. Professional development is offered to facilitate course redesign and best practices. (First Changes have been made for	Projected start 5/23 Completed 11/22	9/24 Complete 11/22
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	moving forward with all subject areas connected to dual credit.)		
Recruit and train new instructors in rural high schools to qualify to teach Pre-College Success courses. (Ongoing)	Regular teacher training. Professional learning community (PLCs) offered. New offerings for all of our teachers so they are completely ready for their courses when the faculty are off contract.	Projected Start 5/23 First on campus training being developed for July 2023 training	7/23 ongoing each summer.
Create and offer online dual credit Pre-College Success course offerings for remote rural students. (Ongoing)	Provide faculty course release time to teach online program specific to remote rural students. (Started in Winter and now in the process of enhancing marketing to get more students in all of the courses this year.)	Projected start 5/23 Completed and currently being taught in Winter 2023 and Spring 2023	9/24 Complete

Major Task #5: Align Dual Credit Offerings with Career Pathways to remote rural students via hybrid, online, and in-person formats.

Year One: 2023

Recruit new instructors in rural high schools to qualify to teach career pathways-aligned courses. (Ongoing)	Summer training is being planned and aligned. Once completed planning is in place, regular communication with rural school teachers on summer training.	Projected start 5/23 Should be able to have most training and communications in summer of 2023	12/24
Annual Summer K-12 Instructor Training offered for 12 new rural educators. (Ongoing)	Currently have trainings in three areas of health on campus this summer. Many of our PLCs are packet and zoom based. Will be working with faculty to help any teachers coming from rural locations with cost to get to campus for any trainings during the year.	Projected start 5/23	7/23 ongoing throughout the year
Create and offer online dual credit course offerings for remote rural students for career pathways-aligned courses that do	Created faculty taught courses for rural students who don't have schools with capacity to teach high school and college level courses for their districts. Also working with local Virtual Learning Academy and Web	Projected start 7/23 Should be in place by this summer and be	Started 12/22 and ongoing

not have qualified on-site instructors. (Ongoing)	Academies to give further options for students.	implemented in the Fall.	
Major Task #6: Integrate Career Pathways into the high school and college experience with Summer Career Academies and career pathways-aligned Experiential Learning.			
Year One: 2023			
Market Summer Career Academies to rural students throughout the region. (Repeat in years 2 and 3)	Distributed marketing materials to schools. Communicate with teachers and officials. (5 summer institutes are in development for Summer 2023) (Will start this process in the Fall of next year so we have set information even earlier.)	Projected start 1/24 3 Institutes in June 2023 and 2 in July 2023	5/24
Administer Summer Career Academies for pre-college students to gain hands-on experience. (Repeat in years 2 and 3)	Academies coordinated and taught. – Working with Career Center and Focus 2 for pre-college coordination in the region. Added Career Connection to Business Summer Institute. (Summer 2023 94 students in institutes on campus with EOU and partner NEOAHEC)	Projected start 5/24 Program Planning started	8/24
Establish a Summer Career Academy course development fund for faculty to create Academies specific to career pathways for high-wage, high-demand occupations in the region for courses beginning in the summer 2024. Repeat in years 2 and 3)	Summer Career Academy development into be a component of the planning of five Summer 2023 courses and enhancement for Summer 2024 and 2025 and then additional Career Academy focused specific academy added in Summer 2024.	Projected start 7/23	12/24

1. What task or objective is the priority for the next reporting period?
 - a. Working with all three specialists to get into the rural schools they have struggled to make connections with.
 - b. Start process for next summer’s institutes with sooner marketing and goal development now that we have one year under us and how we can make sure there is a career connection with all of them.

2. Please discuss any challenges you are experiencing. Being aware of the school district challenges so we can help without creating additional burden on the schools.

Budget –

Are you on track to spend funds in accordance with the timeline of proposed activities/expenditures? If not, explain. I will have some shifts in funding, but I will know more after the final cost of all three summer institutes and the training of the PLC teachers is completed in August.

3. Have you drawn down funds in G5 to pay bills or invoices in a timely manner? Drawdowns are still done on a regular basis, typically monthly but occasionally quarterly. The last drawdown was for 4/1-6/26/23 expenses, done 6/27/23.