

Grant Progress Update

Reporting Period: August 1, 2023- October 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? No changes at this time.

2. Are there any changes to your scope, activities, or objectives? If so, explain.
 - We would like to add a WR Faculty 1/2 position specifically connected to dual credit so we can have more dual credit options in rural towns. This will make dual credit more accessible to students and teachers so that the students can get started on their basic general education courses and not spend more unnecessary money during their first year of college. This person would not start until Spring at the earliest.
 - We have also added faculty going to rural regions to speak to students where they are and not just have them always come to us. This allows for multiple support approaches.
 - Three regional opportunities for schools to meet faculty from all the colleges at the university are going to be completed this year. These events are called "Mountie Connects" This allows small schools to come to one location that is not as far as the campus but has over 14 different faculty they can connect with.
 - We also paid for students who matriculated to campus from rural schools to be able to be part of EAST TREKS which is a program that has an 85% retention rate on our campus.
<https://www.eou.edu/outdoor/east-tracks-new-student-orientation-trips/>

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	On-campus training as well as travel to rural schools.	Projected start 5/23	Complete N/A (See above)

to EOU staff as well as rural partner school teachers, staff, and students.			
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. (We are also connecting with EOU Agricultural Entrepreneur degree and GO STEM partnerships in order to have an array of possibilities for students to see themselves at EOU. These two specific partnerships are useful because many of the rural schools have populations that would be interested in these two fields and it is also connected to the goals of the grant to focus on areas such as sciences in the career fields.	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 7-11 th 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.	1/24 Will start initiating specific events and outreach to this	Ongoing

		population ... Working on during November/ December of 2023	
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 moving forward with all subject areas connected to dual credit. (Additional Changes will be added to Success 201 because of Oregon Senate Bill 3 pushing the graduating class of 2027 to have financial literacy and career planning.)	Projected start 5/23 Completed 11/22	9/24 1st changes Complete 11/22
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. The Oregon Senate Bill 3 will bring in more teachers if we can specifically create a dynamic success course that answers the needs of the high schools. We will start that specific task in Spring 2024.	Projected Start 5/23 First on campus training being developed for July 2023 training	7/23 ongoing each summer. Spring 2024 redevelopment of Success 201 and approval through EPCC.
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	9/24 Complete

		2023 and Spring 2023	
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)	<p>We are adding additional courses this year in Medical Terminology and working on creating a WR 115/121 support structure which will be vital for the success of students in the region.</p> <p>We are working on MAPs that play well with current CTE efforts in the region. This will allow students to decide how they will utilize their workbased education in high school at community college and EOU alike.</p>	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)	All teachers must go through training or packets in order to teach at the collegiate level in our dual credit courses. 23-24 EOU ECI PLC Training	Projected start 5/23	10/1 All current teachers are trained
Create and offer online dual credit course offerings for remote rural students for career pathways-aligned courses that do not have qualified on-site instructors. (Ongoing)	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 Academies to give further options for students.	Projected start 7/23 Should be in place by this summer and be implemented in the Fall.	Started 12/22 and ongoing
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)	Six Summer Institutes ran this year and three were funded by the grant. There are additional and timely processes in place this year to make the institutes more successful and to reach more rural students. Save the Date	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)	Planning for full implementation of Focus 2 Careers in the Summer Institutes in order for additional support to be given to the students in projected fields.	Projected start 5/24 Program Planning started	8/24

<p>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)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Projected start 7/23</p>	<p>12/24</p>
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1. What task or objective is the priority for the next reporting period?
 - a. Starting the process of rolling out Focus 2 Careers
 - b. Working on curriculum and support specific to 7th and 8th grade.

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?I have added a few changes to the carryover budget in order to know how to spend the money in the new year.

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.