

For Immediate Release

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Columbia Basin College Receives National Science Foundation Award to Enhance STEM Course Research

Pasco, WA, July 17, 2024 - Columbia Basin College (CBC) today announced receipt of a \$200,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) award for faculty professional development to design and implement research experiences within courses. The funding is over three years and serves to foster stronger undergraduate student science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education for Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI). CBC has been recognized as an HSI since 2014.

The NSF award gives CBC faculty the opportunity to establish a learning community of course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs) that contribute to greater institutional capacity for HSIs in this area. Funds will be used to develop evidence based and equity-centered programming anchored in rigorous research. Developing a stronger STEM education pathway can contribute to increased recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of students pursuing associate's or baccalaureate degrees in STEM.

Over the next three years, CBC will embed research experiences across 12 courses and include a more diverse population of students. Students will learn what it is like to conduct experiments in biology, psychology, art, and more. Since the research experience is embedded within the courses, the entire class will gain this experience.

“We are thrilled to receive the NSF Award. Funding that supports broader access for students to experiences that leads them to fulfilling professional opportunities really speaks to our values of student success and fostering meaningful employment beyond CBC,” said Dr. Michael Lee, Vice President for Instruction. “STEM education is critical to meeting the needs of businesses in our community.

As a Hispanic-Serving Institution, CBC's overall student demographic is 47% Hispanic. The college is focused on adopting innovative strategies and approaches to engaging historically underrepresented students in STEM learning, continuing education and integration into the STEM workforce.

For questions, please email Elizabeth Burtner, AVP for Marketing & Outreach at eburtner@columbiabasin.edu.

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Columbia Basin College (CBC) is a public community college serving the Tri-Cities and surrounding communities since 1955. CBC's mission is to inspire, educate, and support all students in an environment of academic excellence leading to the completion of degrees, certifications, and educational transfers, while fostering meaningful employment, engaged citizenship, and a life-long joy of learning. CBC offers both two and four-year degrees and one-year Certificates. Bachelor of Applied Science degrees are offered in Applied Management, Applied Management in Agriculture or Healthcare Administration, Cyber Security, Dental Hygiene, Information Technology, Health Physics, Teacher Education and Project Management. CBC also offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.