

FARM II Testimony on 17 April

Good afternoon. I am Pendleton Mayor John Turner and past president of Blue Mountain Community College. I am here to voice my strong support for our regional training center, ...also known as FARM II.

This is very much a community partnership involving the City, Umatilla County, the Pendleton School District, the Round-Up, the Port of Umatilla, and of course Blue Mountain Community College. The City and the Pendleton Round-Up are donating the land... worth approximately \$5 million...for the building site.

The Center will provide regional workforce training opportunities, Career-Technical Education and will build more options for BMCC's outstanding agriculture programs. In addition, the Center will provide shared space for specialized competitions that support rodeo, livestock, and equine professionals from throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The City of Pendleton has committed to manage the non-academic events at the Center and we believe these events will bring in enough revenue to pay the operational costs of running the facility. These events will also bring millions of dollars in direct tourism spending and hotel taxes to the City.

Thank you.