



May 2017

Eastern Oregon Students Earn High School Diplomas & AAOT Degrees

With support from the Eastern Promise (EP) program, the students below are graduating from high school and also earning their AAOT (Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer) degrees. These students are from component school districts in the InterMountain ESD. Eastern Promise and its partners, including Blue Mountain Community College and Eastern Oregon University, congratulates these students and their school districts!

These students represent the first group of students who were introduced to Eastern Promise before the beginning of their high school careers, said Kris Mulvihill, EP Coordinator. "About five years ago, when these students were in middle school, they started hearing the consistent, strong message that earning college credits was very possible at their own high schools," Mulvihill said.

Earning early college credits can save students time in college and money, as the early credits are at a reduced cost. Many eastern Oregon high schools offer most of the courses needed for the AAOT. According to independent data (Ed Northwest), students who earned early college credits through EP graduate from high school at a higher rate, go to college at a higher rate and stay in college (fall of freshman year to fall of sophomore year) at a higher rate.

"Not all high school students who earn college credits will complete an AAOT – some may only take one or two classes – but they still benefit from the experience of college-level work and determine it's something they can do," Mulvihill said.

Umatilla High School

Steven Ebker, Cameron Sipe, Jeira Carrillo, Salvador Alvarez, Taija Coffey (will finish this summer), Samantha Ball (Pictured LEFT to RIGHT)



Weston-McEwen High School

Michael Shafer, Elliebeth Meadows (will finish this summer)



Pendleton High School

Sam Schmitz



Stanfield Secondary School

Ryan Bailey



Riverside High School

Bianca Gutierrez

