Student access center opens on COCC campus

by Bend Weekly News Sources

The Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) Foundation â€• in collaboration with Central Oregon Community College (COCC) â€• is hosting a ribbon cutting event and open house at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 1st to celebrate the opening of ECMC's first wst coast TheCollegePlace student access center. The event will be held in suite 200 of the Grandview Building on the COCC Bend campus. The public is invited to attend. The event will showcase TheCollegePlace resources, student computer lab, library and personal services lounge. TheCollegePlace is staffed by coordinator Richard Thompson, recently retired from his position as COCC's Dean of Students and Enrollment Services. "I am so pleased to have this opportunity to provide information and encouragement free of charge to the area's low-income and first-generation families who might not even consider college were it not for the information and resources provided by TheCollegePlace," said Thompson. The ECMC provides a unique range of services to students, schools and lenders participating in the Federal Family Educational Loan Program. The ECMC Foundation is a nonprofit educational foundation affiliated with the ECMC Group, which promotes access to higher education for low-income and first-generation college students. TheCollegePlace goals have been developed to meet the specific needs of the Central Oregon community. The center expects to work with COCC, Oregon State University-Cascades Campus, local public schools and community organizations that support low-income persons to establish service for at least 200 persons in its first six months. TheCollegePlace will provide free-of-charge services to potential students and parents at its center on the COCC campus, at community partnership sites, and through its extensive web resources. TheCollegePlace Central Oregon Center, including the coordinator position, is funded by ECMC. COCC is providing an office location. ECMC has also recently established TheCollegePlace access centers in two communities in Virginia. For more information, call 550-4000.