

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Chemeketa Community College Agricultural Programs Receives USDA Grant**

*Special program will provide training and internships to Native American students, as well as students of color*

**Salem, Ore., February 24, 2021** — Chemeketa Community College, in partnership with Wisdom of the Elderberry, has been awarded a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant. Through the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Chemeketa's Traditional Ecological Knowledge Workforce Development (TEKWD) project will expand and improve its Agricultural workforce training program by developing innovative curriculum and providing paid internships for Native Americans and other students of color who enroll in Chemeketa Community College's Horticulture program. The goal of this project is to increase the number of students pursuing certificates in Irrigation and/or Crop Health, as well as Horticulture degrees. Key activities include Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) courses and paid internships, mentoring, and career guidance that will help Horticulture students persist in their educational endeavors, ultimately leading to increased earned certificates and successful careers in the industry. Activities begin spring 2021 and the 5-year grant is funded at \$465,000.

Rose High Bear, Founder of Wisdom of the Elderberry Farm stated, "Wisdom of the Elderberry Farm has created an experiential workforce learning model for Native American students and other students of color who are interested in horticultural or agricultural career pathways. We are excited to provide our culturally-tailored TEK curriculum to the community in this special five-year partnership with Chemeketa Community College."

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**National Institute of Food and Agriculture**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

For more than 50 years, Chemeketa Community College has committed itself to transforming lives and our community through exceptional learning experiences in the Mid-Willamette Valley. As the second multi-campus district in Oregon, Chemeketa serves 30,000 students annually at its Salem and Yamhill Valley campuses, as well as Brooks, Eola, Winema, Dallas, Woodburn and Chemeketa Center for Business and Industry (CCBI).

Chemeketa Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational institution.

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