

Blue Mountain Community College

Blue Mountain Community College
Central Oregon Community College
Chemeketa Community College
Clackamas Community College

Clatsop Community College
Klamath Community College
Lane Community College
Linn Benton Community College
Mt. Hood

Community College Oregon Coast
Community College Portland
Community College Rogue
Community College Southwestern Oregon

Community College Tillamook Bay
Community College Treasure Valley
Community College Umpqua
Community College

Tod Sharrard

Tod Sharrard has had lots of jobs - from meat cutter to mill worker, and now mechanic.

When the Boise Cascade mill in LaGrande cut jobs and scaled back their operation, men and women like Tod Sharrard found their years of exemplary service didn't save their livelihood so, with a 50+ birthday looming, Tod decided to go back to college to learn a new skill. His aptitude led him to the diesel technology program at Blue Mountain Community College where he spent two years gaining the skills for an entry-level job in the world of heavy equipment.

The shop at the Western State Caterpillar dealership fills up well before 7:00 a.m. with diesel technicians, managers, parts people, and the sales crew. Five diesel techs, including Tod, say their college training is important because Western State Caterpillar dealership

require that their diesel technicians have a two-year degree: no degree = no employment. In addition their diesel mechanics must have a high level of computer competency to diagnose and repair state-of-the art equipment. People skills are a plus in this industry and critical when working in teams and relating to customers. Tod agrees with Western State's philosophy that his community college experience prepared him well for this environment.

Community colleges offer a variety of workforce training that help lifelong workers, like Tod Sharrard, leave one industry and enter another with the skills necessary to compete for jobs in the new economy and succeed.



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