

FEBRUARY 2022



# GRANT COUNTY

# CYBERMILL



**Grant County CyberMill**

PO Box 174

John Day, OR 97845

[gccybermill.com](http://gccybermill.com)

Email: [didgette.mccracken@oregonstate.edu](mailto:didgette.mccracken@oregonstate.edu)

Cell: 541.620.1465

# ABOUT



Grant County CyberMill is a home-base and accelerator for remote workers, solo-entrepreneurs, those who want to work on their own, and those that desire occasional group interaction. It is intended to encourage Adult Distance Learning, innovation and entrepreneurship, through providing the technology, workspace and environment necessary for success.

The CyberMill has been created and developed by Grant County residents and tailored to fit the community's unique needs. The CyberMill provides an environment of learning and innovation that is not prevalent in Eastern Oregon, Grant County in particular. According to Oregon RAIN (Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network), collaborative spaces like the Grant County CyberMill enable "intentional collisions" where participants can interact in a space and share ideas and resources where they otherwise would not have the opportunity to do so. Internships and brainstorming sessions will catalyze user innovation and learning experiences. Mentoring will be efficient and viable given the co-location and community, which are fundamental to the CyberMill model.

## RATIONALE

Grant County is very remote and is considered a Frontier Community with just 7,200 residents in the county. The devastation of the timber industry over twenty years ago sent Grant County into a spiraling decline of population, commerce, and culture due to the closure of five lumber mills. Grant County has never fully recovered, so it is time to reinvest in a new economy will that will help restore the livelihoods and communities of the county by creating a space and connection for jobs, education, telemedicine and entrepreneurship.

### CHALLENGES PRIOR TO THE CYBERMILL:

1. Just 61% of the county's residents have access to high-speed internet, compared to 94% of all Oregonians (Oregon by the Numbers).
2. Adults enrolled in online college courses wait hours to download course materials.
3. High school students gather in convenience store parking lots to access wireless internet so they can do their homework.
4. Residents only able to access 0.6 MBPS of internet speed during non-peak hours. CyberMill provides speeds 100 times faster.



Bennett Hall: Blue Mountain Eagle

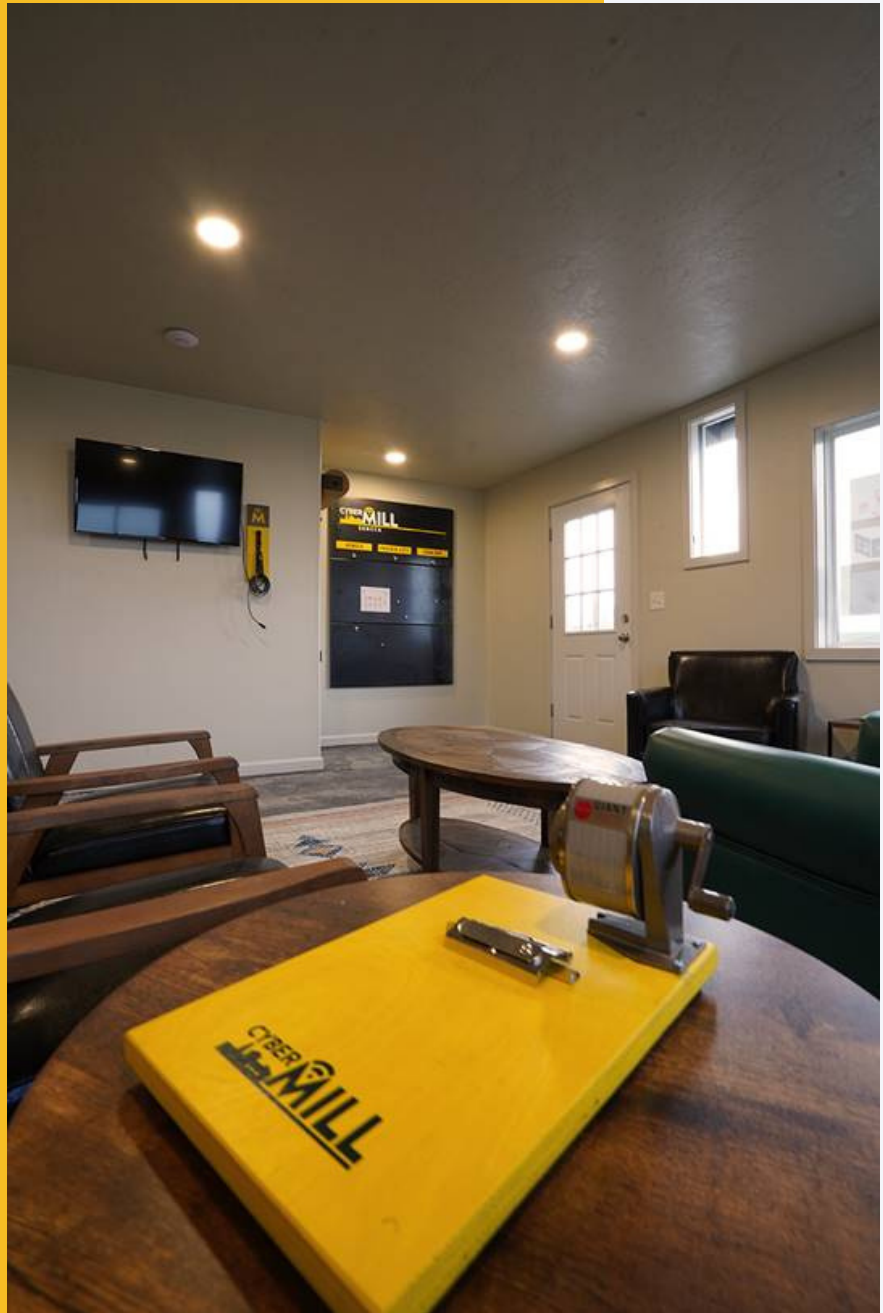
Didgette McCracken, CyberMill Founder, helps local high school senior at the CyberMill in November 2021

# COMMUNITY NEED

CYBERMILL PROPOSAL



# CYBERMILL SENECA



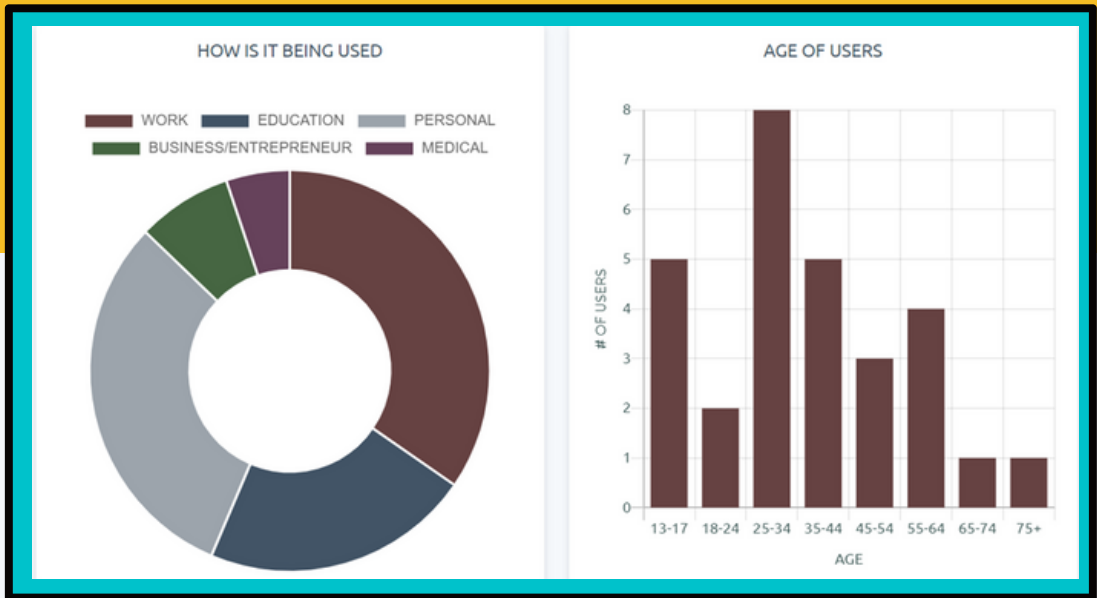
Our vision for the CyberMill project is to provide a place for Grant County residents to access broadband services, as well as establishing space and equipment for collaborating on education and entrepreneurial opportunities. In addition, we would like to make sure the community has a space to meet and be independent with services. Open access to the CyberMill in these local communities will enable education and accelerate innovation and entrepreneurship for those of any social or economic status. These services are to be accessible at all times and a low or no cost to users. This is meant to raise the standard of living and accessibility for Grant County residents no matter how rural or frontier their living.

## CYBERMILL PROPOSAL

# IMPACT

FIRST 30 DAYS

**SENECA CYBERMILL OPENED NOVEMBER 16, 2021**  
**297 ENTRIES INTO BUILDING**  
**38 MEMBERS (23% OF SENECA POPULATION OF 168)**



## TESTIMONIALS

A local resident updated their iPad in seconds, whereas at home it took an hour and that's if they stayed connected

"I have relatives that can come visit and stay longer because they have the ability to work while they visit."

"I now have the option to work and live in Seneca."

A resident said they were able to complete their college federal financial aid forms

"I am able to work from my community now and not drive 30 minutes and find internet access."

# FUNDING NEED



## Funds to Start Prairie CyberMill

**\$66,000**

(INCLUDES EQUIPMENT, REMODEL, TECHNOLOGY)

## Funds to Start John Day CyberMill

**\$750,000**

(INCLUDES SITE RENOVATION OF MAIN STREET BUILDING,  
EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY. THIS IS OUR LARGEST SITE.)

## Annual Operational Costs

<b>\$20,800</b>	PRAIRIE CITY
<b>\$17,500</b>	SENECA
<b>\$21,800</b>	JOHN DAY

## Priority Funding

To date, the CyberMill has raised over \$400,000, which has contributed to the startup of the Seneca site, including one year of operations and remodel and purchase of the John Day location. We are currently in immediate need of \$66,000 in start-up funds for the Prairie City location, which will include one-time purchase of equipment, technology, and remodel. The Prairie City site has already been secured with an initial investment of \$10,000 from the City of Prairie City.



**We are passionate about equity in our community, and your help is vital in this effort.**

*We invite you to explore the ways you can give*

## **GENERAL DONATION**

A general cash gift to the CyberMill is the most direct and impactful method to leave a lasting legacy for changing the standard of living in Grant County. A gift of cash is the simplest and most direct way to make a difference and offer donors opportunities to designate dollars to support the mission and vision of the CyberMill. Cash donations from donors will be recognized and acknowledged at the CyberMill locations and on our website.

## **ANNUAL GIFTS**

Annual Giving to The CyberMill offers the donor the opportunity to invest in continued education, entrepreneurship, business development, telemedicine and increased standard of living in Grant County. Annual Gifts support ongoing operations and areas of greatest need for the fiscal year of the CyberMill.

# **SUPPORT**



# FOUNDERS



## Didgette McCracken

FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT

Didgette McCracken is a native Eastern Oregonian with deep roots in the area and works for Oregon State University Extension. With a degree in math from Eastern Oregon University she began teaching in Eastern Oregon and continued her education with a Master's degree in math from Portland State University and administration certificate from Lewis and Clark University. She has spent her career in the education field teaching for 20 years before taking a job with Oregon State University Extension. Currently Didgette collaborates through Open Campus which focuses on community development, college and career readiness, and degree completion.

**Contact:** [didgette.mccracken@oregonstate.edu](mailto:didgette.mccracken@oregonstate.edu)



## Allison Field

CO-FOUNDER

Allison Field has lived in Grant County for 16 years and invested in her community. She has extensive experience in economic and community development. Allison holds a degree in Natural Resources from Oregon State University and has worked in economic development for four years. She has a diverse professional background ranging from finance and teaching to natural resources and wildlife science. Allison also serves on multiple boards in Grant County as the president of the local art center as well as the Secretary of CyberMill.

**Contact:** [field.allison@outlook.com](mailto:field.allison@outlook.com)



## Rod Ray

CO-FOUNDER

Rod Ray, Ph.D., P.E. is the former CEO of Bend Research, Inc. Bend Research is a technology development company providing innovations for the agricultural, electronics, energy, and space industries. Over the last 25 years, Bend Research had an increasing focus on drug-delivery technology development for the pharmaceutical industry. In 2014, the company was purchased by a large private equity company and ultimately became part of Lonza, a Swiss pharmaceutical technology and manufacturing company.

**Contact:** [rod@canyonmountainconsulting.com](mailto:rod@canyonmountainconsulting.com)



*Thank  
You*

**for investing in the  
people of Grant  
County.**

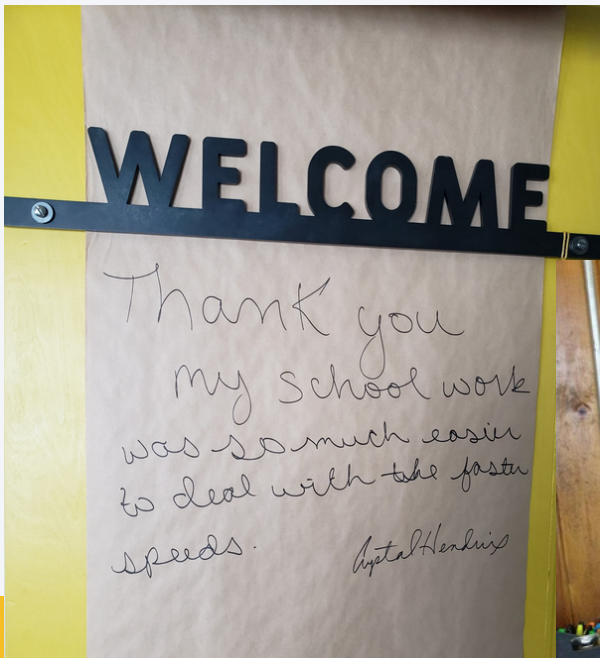


Photo Credit: Bennett Hall, Blue Mountain Eagle

## WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MEANS

Our goal is to provide access to education, mentorship, networking, capital, culture, and community by creating Grant County CyberMill in a 3-Phase plan. For a modest highly leveraged investment, Grant County CyberMill will add an entire new dimension to Grant County's culture, enabling collaboration, opportunities and sustainable growth. New businesses, better-educated and a more capable population will fundamentally add to the commerce and standard of living in Grant County.

**Grant County CyberMill**  
PO Box 174  
John Day, OR 97845  
gccybermill.com