Heavy equipment students widen road, build parking lot near soccer fields

Students in the heavy equipment course at Baker Technical Institute are currently working to improve the road leading to the soccer fields located on the north side of the Baker Sports Complex.

The BTI training is a 260-hour course that draws students from around the region. Students first honed their skills on CAT simulators, then moved to work on real equipment at the land lab located off Hughes Lane. The aim of the lab is to provide an “experience that best matches work conditions,” said Doug Dalton, president of BTI.

“We try to mimic a construction site,” he said.

In previous courses, the students completed heavy equipment tasks and then graded the ground back to level. The current class had the opportunity to complete a project that will benefit community members headed to the soccer fields.

“The BTI students were able to work that in as one of their projects,” Dalton said.

Until now, northern access to the soccer fields was a narrow dirt road. The BTI students and instructors designed the road to be wider, determined the grade, staked the area, calculated the necessary material, and estimated the cost. When complete, the road will be gravel and lead to a parking lot – also gravel – adjacent to the soccer field. A turnaround area for buses was added into the design.

About Baker School District 5J

Nationally recognized Baker School District 5J (BSD) is a major employer (BSD) in Baker City, OR, serving 1,700 students locally with an additional 2500 online students across the state of Oregon. Through enterprising, collaborative endeavors BSD is creating an enduring educational foundation for future Oregonians. BSD believes strong schools with local organizations are able to create vibrant communities that support lifelong learners.