

**Testimony to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
regarding HB 3233.**

May 13, 2013

Presented by Dr. Randy Hitz, Dean of the Portland State University Graduate School of Education.

Co-chairs Monroe and Komp and members of the committee. For the record, I am Dr. Randy Hitz, Dean of the Portland State University Graduate School of Education. Thank you for this opportunity to express support for HB 3233, a bill to establish a “Network of Quality Teaching and Learning” in the state of Oregon.

Though I am presenting today as Dean of Education at PSU, I have also been an active participant with the Oregon Coalition for Quality Teaching and Learning. I mention that because HB 3233 builds on the work of that Coalition and the leadership of Representative Komp who has also been an active participant. The OCQTL played a major role in 2010 in responding to HB 3619 and preparing a thorough report to the Legislature on how to best improve teaching and learning in Oregon. The recommendations were reflected in HB 3474 which passed the Legislature in 2011.

There are many things that can and should be done to transform education, but nothing is more important than better preparing and supporting the professional educators who interact with students on a day-to-day basis. Our educators face great challenges in meeting the needs of the 21st century to ensure all students reach high standards and are college and career ready. Education needs to be transformed to address the reality of globalization, technological advances, national standards, and economic realities. Additionally, Oregon’s investment in education needs to equal the outcomes we demand from the system and our students.

The primary focus of HB 3233 is to ensure that all teachers in Oregon have the skills needed to help all students succeed. Toward that end HB 3233 creates a seamless system of professional preparation and job-embedded professional learning for licensed educators (beginning teachers, experienced teachers, administrators, and superintendents) that includes support for educational professionals in their ongoing pursuit of high quality professional learning to ensure their effectiveness in today’s rapidly changing world.

In the Portland Metro area ten universities have partnered with eleven school districts to coordinate our efforts, create better clinical experiences for aspiring teachers, and build mutually beneficial partnerships that ultimately lead to higher PK12 student achievement. We have decided that no single university or school district can create the kind of professional development system needed. We must work together to create a more seamless and effective system from teacher preservice through inservice. This effort is entirely consistent with HB 3233 and similar work being done in Salem, Corvallis, and Eugene. It is also consistent with the new Chalkboard project, TEACH OREGON. HB 3233 will enhance this partnership work and help to ensure that it reaches its potential for improving teaching and learning in Oregon.

I thank you for considering HB 3233 and for this opportunity to express support for the bill. I will be happy to discuss this in more detail with the committee if you wish.