

Columbia Gorge Community College

**Advanced Technology Center
&
Regional Center for Innovation**

Speaker Kotek , Co-Chair Girod and Members of the Committee:

For the record my name Robb Van Cleave, Chief Operating Officer, Columbia Gorge Community College and with me is Lori Ufford, Chief Student Services Officer.

We are here this afternoon to speak in favor of funding for the Columbia Gorge Community College Advanced Technology Center which will include the Columbia Gorge Regional Center of Innovation.

The Regional Center of Innovation is a bi-state approach to transform STEM education in support of Oregon's 40-40-20. This project is about Columbia Gorge Community College becoming the link between a seamless PreK-20 system and industry located in the Columbia River Gorge.

Our project is about building DREAMS.

Columbia Gorge Community College is submitting this capital construction request to address an immediate, urgent opportunity to ensure a skilled, 21st Century workforce for our region through partnership with technology-sector industries, K-12 school districts, and universities.

This facility will support a critical need, identified by industry partners, for a skilled workforce with emphasis in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

Our local Industry partners such as Google, Insitu and members of the Gorge Technology Alliance have difficulty recruiting and retaining skilled workers, which is a constraining factor in the region's economic growth. Existing college facilities are inadequate to serve programming needs that will, in turn, help address this shortage of skilled workers. Opportunity for new programs identified by community, business and industry drive the need for additional instructional space on the Hood River – Indian Creek Campus

Columbia Gorge Community College has invested \$1,500,000 to expand the existing Hood River Indian Creek campus by 7 acres. Matching funds for this project will be from a local Bond measure and/or other funding sources.

The College has a history of creating unique and successful funding partnerships. An example of this is the joint Oregon Military Ft. Dalles Readiness Center & Columbia Gorge Community College Workforce Readiness Center project currently under construction in The Dalles. This unique project is also receiving funds from industry partners and local governments.

In addition, we are currently one of the first projects listed on the Agora Investment Platform. In brief, the Platform is a pilot program created by the Meyer Memorial Trust and the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District. The intention is to connect projects and priorities to a broader range of public, private, and philanthropic capital providers.

We have an opportunity to transform the bi-state Columbia Gorge into a technology based ecosystem nurtured by innovation and a high quality of life.

By aligning industry, K-12 school districts, training providers, community colleges, universities and economic development partners, we can grow a workforce that meets the needs of the 21st century economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this afternoon about our project. We are happy to answer any questions.

Engage Industry

- Develop structured mentoring/internship program
- Formalize industry partnerships through memoranda of understanding
- Scan workforce for catalog of desired skill sets in new hires

Engage Education

- Implement Pre-K STEM curriculum in Head Start
- Develop STEM Magnet Academies
- Implement Supported Math in 8th grade
- Engage project-based learning in robotics, software development, and contextualized math skills (grades 5-8)
- Align secondary/post secondary math curricula (grades 9-12)
- Expand Dual Credit opportunities with Oregon University System
- Create industry-approved machining and welding certificate programs
- Establish dual-credit pre-engineering track

Engage Community

- Deploy regional Early Learning Hub
- Develop outreach and education program for parents
- Access resources and training
- Integrate OSU Open Campus
- Launch OSU Extension summer programs

Community College

(Convenor)

Align math curriculum with HS-algebra, trig, calc, stats (grades 9-12)
Rethink developmental education to accelerate progress

K-12

STEM magnet academies

Supported math in 8th grade
Project based learning in robotics, software development, contextualized math skills (grades 5-8)

Align math curriculum with CC-algebra, trig, calc, stats (grades 9-12)
Pre-engineering track to CGCC
Dual enrollment, focus on 15 credit persistence marker (grades 9-12)

Develop placement test preparation course

Focus on pathways to degree partnerships with OUS
Expand HS dual credit

Early Learning

Pre-K STEM Curriculum
Pre-natal, K-12, and College Curriculum Alignment "Seamless Education"

Early learning, child care, parental engagement through learning hub
Pre-K learner groups

Regional hub deployment
Parental outreach and education, access to resources and training
ECE certification and degree through partnerships with OUS

STEM Focus

Math

Concentration:

The Golden Thread

OSU Open Campus integration
OSU Extension integration: 4-H, summer programs, other
Technology-focused agricultural Operations

Establish clear degree pathways from CC-OUS
U of O / OUS chemistry track for high schools

Industry
(Industry partnerships to be secured through MOUs)
Job skill set scans/alignment, job shadowing, internships, site visits, guest faculty
Workforce training
MCCOG, WorkSource Washington
Pre-apprenticeship training, assessment and counseling, tracking to employment



Office of the President

Oregon State University, 600 Kerr Administration Building, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-2128
Phone 541-737-4133 | Fax 541-737-3033

January 22, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

Opportunity exists to transform the bi-state Columbia Gorge into a sustainability- and technology-based economic ecosystem nurtured by environmental stewardship, innovation and a high quality of life. The Columbia Gorge Regional Center of Innovation will align industry, K-12 school districts, training providers, community colleges, regional universities and economic development partners to grow a workforce that meets the needs of a 21st century economy. As Oregon's largest public research institution and the state's land-grant university, Oregon State University is pleased to support Columbia Gorge Community College's role in turning this vision of a regional center of innovation into a reality.

Oregon State University and Columbia Gorge Community College have worked together for the past eight years to provide degree partnership opportunities for students in the Columbia River Gorge. Further, we recognize the need to continue to support the development of educational opportunities in rural communities and are launching Oregon Open Campus in Wasco and Hood River counties in order to provide better local access to learning. The Open Campus program aligns conceptually with the vision for the Columbia Gorge Regional Center of Innovation by offering seminars, presentations and training programs that help support economic development, workforce advancement and lifelong learning, as well as help participants gain professional credentials.

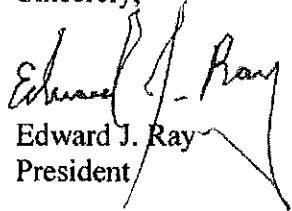
Inspired to make a measurable difference in the quality of life for Oregon communities and the natural world we steward, Oregon State University is committed to considered and strengthened efforts in regional economic development. We welcome the opportunity to continue working with Columbia Gorge Community College to identify ways we can partner to achieve the related goals of the Regional Center of Innovation such as:

- Creating both community college and university internships with industry partners; and
- Exploring university degree tracks in collaboration with Columbia Gorge Community College, including site co-location, shared faculty, and streamlined undergraduate course articulation.

We see this enhanced relationship with Columbia Gorge Community College and the launch of Oregon Open Campus in Wasco and Hood River counties as opportunities to highlight innovation and partnership in the state of Oregon. Not only do these collaborations set an example for 40/40/20, they also demonstrate alignment between achievement compacts at all

educational levels. We are pleased to support Columbia Gorge Community College's role in the development of the Columbia Gorge Regional Center of Innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Ray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Edward" on the left, "J." in the middle, and "Ray" on the right, all connected by a single continuous line.

Edward J. Ray
President



January 29, 2013

Office of the President

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*Joseph E. Robertson, Jr., M.D., M.B.A.
President*

To Whom It May Concern:

Opportunity exists to transform the bi-state Columbia Gorge into a technology-based economic ecosystem nurtured by innovation and a high quality of life. The Columbia Gorge Regional Center of Innovation will align industry, K-12 school districts, training providers, community colleges, regional universities and economic development partners to grow a workforce that meets the needs of a 21st century economy. Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) is pleased to support Columbia Gorge Community College's role in turning this vision into a reality.

As the state's only health and research university, OHSU brings together patient care, research, education of the next generation of health care providers and scientists and community service to improve the health and well-being of all Oregonians. We understand the need to support the development of education in rural communities and have supported Columbia Gorge Community College's education of rural nurses since the inception of its nursing program in 2001.

Our goal of improving the health and well-being of all Oregonians includes support of programs that support economic development, workforce advancement and lifelong learning, which is a natural alignment with the vision for the Columbia Gorge Regional Center of Innovation.

Oregon Health & Science University welcomes the opportunity to continue working with Columbia Gorge Community College to identify ways we can partner to achieve the related goals of the Regional Center of Innovation, such as:

- Creating community college and university internships with industry partners; and
- Exploring university degree tracks in cooperation with Columbia Gorge Community College, including site co-location, shared faculty, undergraduate course articulation, and tuition reciprocity.

This is an opportunity to highlight innovation and partnership in the state of Oregon. Not only does it set an example for 40/40/20, it also demonstrates alignment between achievement compacts at all educational levels. We are pleased to support Columbia Gorge Community College's role in the development of the Columbia Gorge Regional Center of Innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joe Robertson'.

Dr. Joe Robertson, President
Oregon Health & Science University



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January 28, 2013

Dr. Frank K. Toda
President, Columbia Gorge Community College
400 East Scenic Drive
The Dalles, OR 97058-3456

RE: Support for Columbia River Gorge Regional Center for Innovation

Dear Dr. Toda:

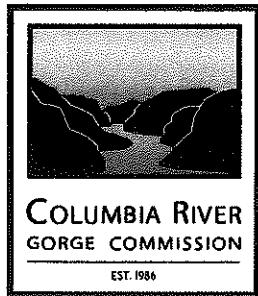
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Columbia Gorge Education Service District, I would like to express our very strong support of the Columbia River Gorge Regional Center for Innovation being proposed by Columbia Gorge Community College. Our education service district provides technology, school improvement, special education and early learning services to the school districts in Hood River and Wasco Counties, all of which are served by Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC).

The Columbia River Gorge Regional Center for Innovation will bring a singular focus to regional education and economic development initiatives that has not existed previously. In doing so, it supports the various regional initiatives moving forward under the direction of the Oregon Education Investment Board. Indeed, the Regional Center for Innovation has the potential to become a model for other regions of the state looking for a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated approach to P-20 education.

The proposal by CGCC to align industry, K-12 school districts, training providers and regional university outreach with economic development partners through a seamless P-20 education system is very similar to the participation of Columbia Gorge Education Service District in other regional initiatives. These include our direct involvement and leadership in establishing a coordinated early learning service center and the anticipated creation of a regional student achievement center. We anxiously await the opening of the Center for Innovation so that we might further our collaboration with the Center's other partners in accomplishing the educational and economic goals of the region.

Sincerely,

Gary Peterson
Superintendent



May 10, 2013

Dr. Frank Toda, President
Columbia Gorge Community College
300 East Scenic Drive
The Dalles, OR 97058

RE: Columbia River Gorge Commission support for the Regional Center of Innovation

Dear Dr. Toda,

Dan Spatz presented the Regional Center of Innovation (RCI) to the Columbia River Gorge Commission (CRGC) at its April 9 meeting in The Dalles. The Commission responded with unanimous verbal support; this letter confirms that support for the RCI project.

The Columbia River Gorge is a uniquely functioning inter-state region of rural communities and world-class resources with tremendous opportunities. Capturing those opportunities requires a coordinated local/state/federal strategy and the National Scenic Area provides a framework for the RCI to fully harness regional economic opportunities.

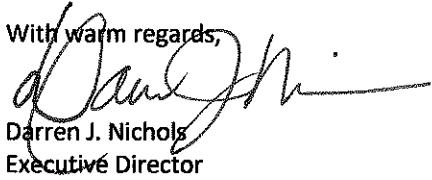
The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act provides innovative regional governance to protect resources and support economic development in the 292,000-acre, two-state, six-county, thirteen-community, four-tribe National Scenic Area (NSA). The innovative RCI fits well with the regional economic and community development structure of the Gorge and supports the long-term protection of Gorge resources.

The RCI encourages appropriate economic development in the National Scenic Area by aligning regional industry needs with regional education providers. The RCI inspires children to learn STEM and other essential skills to help the region compete in the 21st Century economy. The project encourages university partnerships in the NSA including research and development in the clean-tech economy. Together, these efforts diversify the regional economy and improve our quality of life by encouraging family-wage jobs in clean technologies, and by addressing community concerns such as affordable housing, critical infrastructure investment and K-20 education.

The RCI engages local, state and federal lawmakers with employers, school districts, community colleges, universities, and agencies in a bi-state approach to common economic and community development efforts in the National Scenic Area.

This innovative regional collaboration is essential to the economic and community health of the Columbia Gorge.

With warm regards,



Darren J. Nichols
Executive Director

