

Melody Rose
Chancellor
OUS
3.7.13

SB 241 S. Business & Transportation
HR B

Chair Beys members of the committee.

For the record.....

*Lend support for the proposal for the South Willamette Valley Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network project brought today by my colleagues – represents a significant investment in Oregon’s business incubation activities, a down payment if you will in Oregon’s business start-up and university partnerships

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*Pleased as chancellor of the OUS to lend my support to this project ~ and would like to offer a bit of context for it.

*OUS has held a number convenings over the past year between our research-intensive universities, industry, & other supportive stakeholders yielded a comprehensive strategy for investment in collaborative economic development & research.

*Research is a critical piece of the educational enterprise; research and instruction are inexorably linked.

*Many departments train undergraduate students in the lab (students can apply what they’ve learned in the classroom; AAC&U’s HIPs) Students say “That’s when I really learn!” Research experiences for undergraduates engages them to see other opportunities once they finish their 4-year degree; spurs students onto graduate work, medical degrees, etc.

*Our institutions must collaborate on research to be competitive with institutions in other states; no institution in Oregon can do this on its own.

*Considered a range of opportunities, and will be presenting requests going forward for three projects (this one included), which will:

*Lay the groundwork for a long-term, sizable investment in economic development supported by OUS institutions

*Bring partnerships across our institutions and across sectors

*Offer scalable projects that will yield innovation, business solutions, discovery and bring private money to the table

Our hope is this long-term, collaborative thinking will yield sustainable, scalable economic development and drive excellence in Oregon.

I'm glad to support my colleagues from UO and OSU today, who will describe one of the three projects we hope will move forward this legislative session.

Happy to take questions ~ or to yield to my colleagues to get to their exciting project.