



February 4, 2014

Representative Mark Johnson
Members of the Higher Education and Workforce Committee
900 Court St. NE, H-489
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Fixed Costs Bachelor's Degree

Dear Honorable Johnson and members of the Higher Education and Workforce Committee:

I am pleased to write this letter on behalf of the Fixed Cost Bachelor's Degree proposal.

I am very supportive of this concept on many levels. The first is that it provides an important foundation to discuss the tuition and state support—these are the two single levers my university has to fund its educational enterprise. Secondly, this concept ties together regional needs and college degrees. By preparing a pilot program, by examining what is needed in our region, along with a mechanism to offer affordable degrees is a powerful tool. And thirdly, as stated in the proposed legislation, this effort must be funded appropriately. As state above, EOU (and the three other universities in this legislation) have two primary revenue sources—tuition and state appropriations. These two ***must*** work in conjunction to ensure a quality educational environment that supports our students—who many are first generation college students who are from lower economic status homes and also represent under-served populations.

By providing our students a clear pathway—educationally and economically—we can and will make a significant difference for our region and in reaching the 40-40-20 goal.

I look forward to the continued dialog on this important issue. Eastern Oregon University, which has a long commitment to providing affordable and accessible higher educational opportunities, is willing and able to support this important project in conjunction with the HECC and our peer universities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Davies'.

Bob Davies, Ph.D.
President