



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

501 North Dixon Street / Portland, OR 97227
Telephone: (503) 916-3200 / Fax: (503) 916-3110
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 3107/97208-3107
Email: csmith1@pps.net

Carole Smith
Superintendent

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 13, 2014

Dear Oregon Legislators,

I urge you to help Portland State University create a new home for its Graduate School of Education (GSE) to meet the growing demand for more high-quality teachers in Oregon.

The GSE is the largest and most comprehensive school of education in Oregon, preparing more teachers, counselors and administrators for licensure than any other institution in the state. GSE's alumni make a difference at every level of education in every corner of Oregon, and its graduates consistently earn state and national honors.

PSU's education school will play an even more critical role as Oregon's teachers retire and its students grow more diverse. **The Oregon Employment Division estimates the state will need to hire 16,458 new teachers by 2020.** That is one-third of the teacher workforce.

The GSE draws its teacher and counselor candidates from PSU's rich pool of exceptionally diverse students and **prepares more diverse teachers than any other university** in the state. The GSE has won two national awards in the last eight years for its efforts recruiting diverse students and preparing future educators to work effectively with all students.

Recent grant funding at the GSE has doubled to \$4.2 million in five years, a sign of its commitment to advancing the fields of education and counseling through dedicated research and partnerships.

Please support PSU's request for \$17 million to expand and renovate the education building. I look forward to watching the progress of this important project.

Sincerely,

Carole Smith
Superintendent