

Sen. Fred Girod, Co-Chair  
Rep. Tina Kotek, Co-Chair  
Joint Ways and Means Committee  
Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of funding for expansion and relocation of Portland State University's Graduate School of Education. The relocation of this program is made necessarily by the growth and expansion of PSU's School of Business Administration into space previously occupied by the Graduate School of Education. It is also made necessary by the expansion of full-day kindergarten and other early childhood programs in Oregon which will significantly increase the demand for programs to prepare educators in these disciplines.

The PSU Graduate School of Education (GSE) is deeply involved in early childhood education in a variety of ways, all of which significantly impact the care and education of young children throughout the state. The GSE has a preparation program for early childhood teachers (Prekindergarten through third grade) and another program for teachers of young children with special needs (early intervention). We also have a master's specialization in early childhood education for practitioners. In these two areas we offer traditional face-to-face programs as well as online programs. The GSE also offers a third academic program online in the area of infant and toddler mental health. This program is unique in the nation.

The GSE houses the Oregon Center for Career Development (OCCD) which provides leadership in the development and operation of integrated and statewide professional development standards and systems. OCCD promotes professional development to achieve high quality care and education for children and youth, and creates and supports training and education. The OCCD employs 29 people and though it is placed administratively in the GSE, has its offices in a building apart from other GSE departments because space is not available in our current facilities.

GSE faculty members and student conduct research on a regular basis to contribute to the knowledge base in early childhood education. Our most significant research funded by the federal government relates to education curriculum for young children with autism. This research has had a profound impact on education programs for children with autism throughout the northwest and the nation. The faculty members conducting this research are also housed in a building apart from the rest of the GSE.

Finally, the GSE includes the Helen Gordon Child Development Center which provides care and education to over 200 children from infancy through kindergarten for PSU students and staff. This program is nationally accredited and serves as a place for practicum experiences as well as a model for other early childhood programs in the state and nation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this important matter. I would be happy to provide any additional information you need.

Sincerely,

Christine Chaille, Ph.D., Chair  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Graduate School of Education