



Tykeson Family Foundation

February 23, 2017

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce  
Representative Jeff Reardon, Chair  
900 Court Street NE, Room 431  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: Support for HB 2782 – Full Funding of OSU-Cascades Expansion**

Dear Chair Reardon and Members of the Committee:

I am a retired business owner, active philanthropist and volunteer in Central Oregon. It delights me to see the new OSU-Cascades Campus alive with students engaged in learning and pursuing their dreams. An educated citizenry is a key to Oregon's sustainable future. I appreciate your commitment to our greatest natural resource—our youth.

As the prior owner of BendBroadband, our family was an early supporter of the notion of a four-year university in Central Oregon. Once OSU-Cascades gained momentum, we endowed the first professorship, supporting the unique Energy Systems Engineering Program. When it became clear that there wasn't room on the COCC campus for a growing OSU-Cascades, the Tykeson family contributed \$1M toward the needed \$4M to begin the first set of new campus facilities. Now at the nexus for the next phase of expansion, the Tykeson Family Foundation without hesitation, contributed another \$1M toward the \$10M in needed local funds. For us, the OSU-Cascades campus expansion is the best kind of investment to be making because it changes lives.

Members of my family have had the good fortune to attend and graduate from college. Our state universities provide an affordable path to a college degree and most are located within reasonable proximity to home. However, until the four-year program opened at OSU-Cascades in 2015, the growing student population had two choices: attend COCC for 2 years and finish at OSU-Cascades in the 2+2 program, or attend University elsewhere, the closest being over 135 miles from home. The sustained, fevered pace of population growth in Central Oregon includes the relocation of many businesses setting up operations here. Businesses of all kinds need trained workers to meet their needs. With over 20 majors available now, OSU-Cascades is filling a vital role for employers across the region. Hundreds of internships have occurred and graduates are being hired for well paying jobs.

As co-founder of Now4 OSU Cascades, a coalition of leaders from across the region, I join with dozens of committed representatives to underscore the importance of this

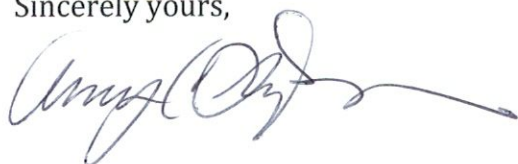
campus to the future of our region and to the state of Oregon. OSU-Cascades is a game-changing asset for Oregon and is the most important advancement for our region in decades.

The current facilities on the 10-acre parcel are a great beginning. However, capacity for students at these facilities will be surpassed in 2020. The requested allocation of \$69.5M during the 2017-19 legislative session will provide a second academic building and a student success center to ensure that all students – including those who are underserved and first generation college students – have the support they need to complete their degree.

Central Oregon is among the fastest growing regions in the state, and the nation. Making the appropriations now to accommodate student demand and meet the needs of our region is the right kind of investment. It is an investment that will pay dividends to our state for decades to come. It will change futures.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of our youth, for a better Oregon.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy C. Tykeson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amy C. Tykeson  
Former CEO of BendBroadband  
Managing Trustee of the Tykeson Family Foundation  
Co-Founder of Now4 OSU-Cascades

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