

February 20, 2017

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

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

I am writing to you today to ask for your support for full funding for the OSU-Cascades Expansion.

OSU-Cascades draws students primarily from Central Oregon which is geographically isolated and under-served in regards to higher education opportunities. 70% of the OSU-Cascades students are from Central Oregon and many are place bound. One of the reasons this issue is so important to me is that I was a place bound student in Central Oregon. One of my goals was to be a member of the first generation of our family achieve a Bachelor's degree. This endeavor was prior to the establishment of OSU-Cascades and even though I had both financial and family support it took me 10 years to get my degree due to lack of access.

Our historic lack of accessible higher education opportunities is born out in our Bachelor's degree attainment statistics, Deschutes county is well below the state goal and Crook & Jefferson county are at 32% of the goal. The population growth in our area is anticipated to well exceed the growth statewide, student enrollment is projected to exceed capacity of our current facilities by 2021.

Therefore funding is needed for the Second Academic Building and the Student Success Center in this legislative cycle to meet construction schedules and building completion in order that the state can serve the students and maintain the momentum to achieve state goals.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Moss*

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