

February 15th, 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

Chair Reardon and Members of the Committee:

My name is Preston Callicott, CEO of Five Talent Software, Inc., a custom software development company based in Bend, Oregon. Our growth depends heavily on the availability of highly-skilled software developers in Central Oregon. OSU-Cascades (“OSU-C”) is establishing the workforce-creation engine Central Oregon needs.

Central Oregon is at full employment, especially in tech, along with many other market sectors. **We respectfully request the Members of the Committee approve the Full Funding of OSU-Cascades Expansion**, as this campus is, and will be, a major contributor to the local economy, providing the 21st Century workforce Central Oregon needs for its economic growth.

Local Grads are in High Demand

OSU-C’s computer science graduates are highly sought after here, because our tech ecosystem in Oregon is extremely robust and requires an ever-increasing number of software developers and data scientists.

Reason One: OSU-C has a fantastic computer science department generating work-ready graduates.

Reason Two: The graduates already live here. Over 70% of OSU-C’s students are from Central Oregon, and virtually all have stated a desire to find employment here. This allows us to hire talent without adding more people to a metro area already struggling with housing availability and costs. Additionally, professional recruitment costs for out-of-state tech hires is anywhere from \$20,000 TO \$40,000.

Reason Three: Businesses here want to collaborate with students early on through internships and research assistance. This helps the students understand the business environment/needs before they graduate, which allows for a faster learning curve and a better long-term fit.

One Final Point: A new campus doesn’t happen very often in the U.S., which gives Central Oregon (and the state) a big competitive advantage. The caveat is we need to be bold and build a campus with the future in mind. OSU-C’s leaders have put a lot of thought into how to craft a campus to do just that. The mantra in tech is “innovate”, and OSU-C carries that flag for all of us in Central Oregon.

Kindest Regards,



Preston Callicott
Chief Executive Officer, Five Talent Software, Inc.