



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Office of Workforce Investments

Oregon Youth Conservation Corps

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April 4, 2017

Senator Rod Monroe, Co-Chair  
Representative Barbara Smith-Warner, Co-Chair  
Ways and Means Education Subcommittee

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) empowers at-risk youth by providing outdoor work and stewardship experiences throughout Oregon. OYCC was created by the 1987 Oregon Legislature and is celebrating its 30-year anniversary this spring!

Over the last year, the OYCC Advisory Committee and OYCC staff have focused on growth and sustainability. We are currently implementing a new five-year strategic plan, which includes serving more youth and increasing funding.

OYCC has had another fantastic year. There are so many successes and stories of growth to share. April, a Corpsmember from Lane County states, "By being a part of this program I have learned so many skills like being a leader, teamwork and how important it is to be reliable." We have hundreds of similar quotes from youth.

While there are numerous successes and highlights to focus on, OYCC does face challenges for the future. One such challenge is meeting the ever-increasing need to serve more youth with fewer resources.

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics shows Oregon has a youth unemployment rate of 15%. However, only 46% of the youth that applied for a summer OYCC job over the last six years were hired. An incredible demand and gap needs to be filled. The Advisory Committee looks forward to working with all partners, including the legislature, to address these needs.

In summary, we are pleased to present you with a copy of the 2015-16 OYCC Annual Report. In it, you will find statistics on youth served, Corpsmember testimonials and much more. An electronic copy of the report is posted on the OYCC website, <http://www.oiccweb.com/>.

Sincerely,

Tom Cope, Co-Chair

## OYCC Advisory Committee

**Mary Chamness**  
*Co-Chair*

**Tom Cope**  
*Co-Chair*

**Rep. Paul Evans**

**Sen. Michael  
Dembrow**

**Robert Jones**

**Katy Nelson**

**Jeffrey Gottfried**

**Vacant Gov.  
Appointment**

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Appointment**

