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For public hearing 4/17/17

To: Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

From: Dave Porter

Subject: SB 5524: Questions on number of Oregon higher education students studying Mandarin and other strategically important foreign languages

**Please ask the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to submit written data on the numbers of students studying Mandarin and other strategically important foreign languages like Hindi, Indonesian, and Japanese. Please ask for data by languages studied and by the higher education institution.**

In 2007, I did not think Oregon public universities had enough students studying Mandarin for Oregon optimum economic and national security future. I think today that Mandarin situation continues. Today I think the problem has become broader: Oregon does not have enough students studying Hindi, Indonesian, and Japanese as well.

On 2/14/07, the three major Oregon public universities testified before the Oregon House Education Subcommittee on Higher Education on their engagement with China. Each of the three universities reported their then number of students studying Mandarin. None had more than 1.62% of their students studying Mandarin. I found those percentages alarming low.

What are the rates today? Please get the data.

Here are the 2007 findings:

**Portland State University:**

Enrollment: 13,536 undergraduates; 4,197 graduate; 17,733 total

Chinese language: 4-6 majors per year; 1-3 minors per year

Chinese language enrollment:

Fall 2006: 1st year - 83, 2nd year - 20; 3rd year - 12;

Summer 2006: 1st year - 69; 2nd year - 26;

Total: 210 (as a percentage of undergraduates - 1.55%)

About 8 student per year study abroad in China (or 0.06% of undergraduates)

**Oregon State University:**

Enrollment: 13,669 undergraduate; 2,575 graduate; 16,244 total;

18 Chinese language minors in 2005-06.

Chinese language enrollment (05-06): 267 (as a percentage of undergraduates - 1.62%)

11 student are studying abroad in China in 2006-07 (or 0.08% of undergraduates)

**University of Oregon:**

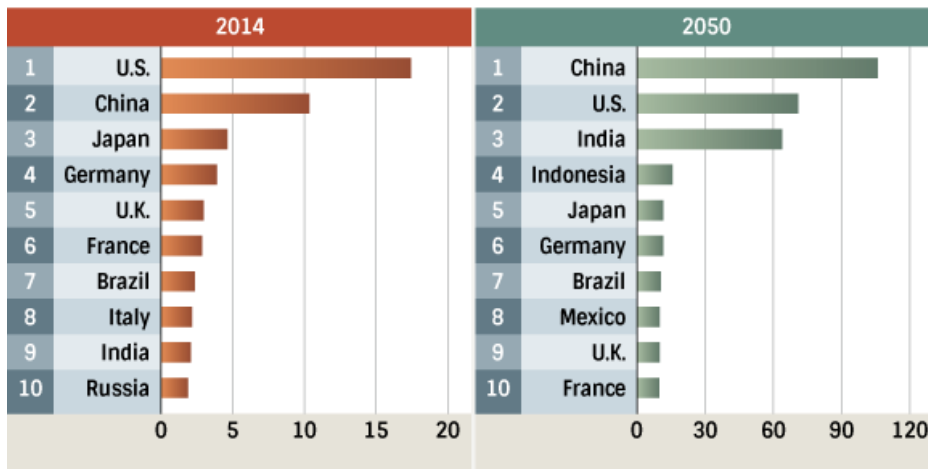
Enrollment: 12,121 undergraduates; 2,380 graduates; 14,501 total;

161 students in 1st and 2nd year (as a percentage of undergraduates - 1.11%)

19 students studied abroad in China (Taiwan and Hong Kong) in 2005-06 (or 0.15% of undergraduates)

Thank you.

World's top 10 economies in 2050 at market exchange rates, nominal GDP; in trillions of U.S. dollars



Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit