



Senator Rod Monroe
Representative Barbara Smith-Warner
Co-Chairs
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

April 10, 2017

Dear Co-Chairs Monroe and Smith-Warner,

I am writing as the Chairperson of Oregon Tech's Board of Trustees to seek your support for three critical investments in post-secondary education in Oregon. During your deliberations this week, and the presentations from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the Oregon Public Universities, you will hear presidents, faculty and administrators make the case for additional investments in higher education. When you listen to their testimony, I am asking you to please focus on our students, Oregon students, who need your help to get an education and pursue meaningful careers.

As a trustee, with fiduciary responsibilities, I am deeply grateful for the investment you made in our students last biennium. At Oregon Tech, we were able to add several retention initiatives, target underrepresented students for success, and award completion scholarships for students who were close to graduation but financially challenged to complete.

Our trustees are seriously concerned that this biennium, more than any other, we may lose ground. Our costs are rising in ways that we cannot control and simultaneously, our students may not be able to bear the tuition increases that will help our board balance the budget. We anticipate a large tuition increase, coupled with cuts in programs and staff to make ends meet. So I want to make the case that the most effective way to grow Oregon's economy, increase tax revenue and develop Oregon's children into engaged citizens with the skills to run this country in the future is to invest in the following programs:

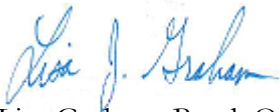
- **Public University Support Fund at \$765M:** This request is \$100 million over the Governor's Recommended Budget and will sustain our current service level, and not force universities to backtrack on our student success programs. Like K-12, many university students are also low-income, first-generation, veterans, and underrepresented and deserve support all along their educational pathways. Please don't make their K12 and community college success an empty promise.

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- **Sports Lottery \$12.5M:** Sports Lottery funds are dedicated to non-revenue team support, scholar-athlete scholarships and team travel in rural Oregon. Sports Lottery funds help universities meet **Title IX requirements to equitably fund women's athletics programs.** De-funding Sports Lottery will directly affect female athletes as well as overall operations of intercollegiate sports. Oregon Tech will need to cut 2-3 sports programs entirely, and would lose an estimated 50 students and three staff members if this portion of the budget is not reinstated.
- **Public University State Programs \$41.9M:** Oregon has supported 13 research and public service programs across the universities for many years. The State Programs are comprised of institutes, centers, and programs with legislative origins and serving statewide priorities. This year, we are asking the legislature to add the Oregon Renewable Energy Center (OREC) at Oregon Tech as an applied research center. Like the other State Programs, OREC was authorized in statute in 2001. Unlike the other State Programs, OREC has not been included in the Public University State Program list to provide the sustainable funding to continue our leadership role in supporting energy generation, talent development and applied research with small and medium-sized companies in Oregon. We must not lose our national lead and need your support.

In summary, as Chairperson of the Oregon Tech Board of Trustees, our Board is committed to delivering a high quality education for Oregonians, with a 98% student success rate, and the highest salaries in the state for our graduates. You can count on our institution to deliver results.

Thank you for your ongoing support,



Lisa Graham, Bend, Oregon

Chairperson

Oregon Tech Board of Trustees

Nagi G. Naganathan, Ph.D.
President-designate

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