

April 18, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Monroe, Co-Chair Smith Warner and Members of the Committee:

We write today in support of SB 5524, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission budget. Specifically, we are enthusiastically supportive of the Public Universities Support Fund and its support for impactful programs statewide, especially NEW Leadership Oregon.

The National Education for Women (NEW) Leadership Oregon program at Portland State University is a leadership initiative that trains outstanding diverse college women from across ALL Oregon higher education institutions (including universities, colleges and community colleges across the state) in the state to develop their leadership potential, offer ongoing mentoring and training, increase college graduation rates for underserved communities, and ultimately increase women in leadership positions across the state. More than 65% of our students come from underserved communities across Oregon, and approximately 20% are mothers. Women, and particularly women from diverse backgrounds, are vital to a representative democracy, and their involvement in all aspects of public service is a matter of justice and equity.

NLO is the only nonpartisan leadership training program for college women in the state. This June 2017, we will welcome our 14th Class of emerging diverse women leaders. NLO cultivates emerging leaders from rural, suburban, and urban areas, through programming that facilitates understanding of issues across the state, trains participants in leadership skills, and connects them with public and private sector leaders for knowledge sharing. With the state's continued investment towards this program, we know we can continue this work for the next biennium. The state's investment in NEW Leadership Oregon is relatively small compared to the significant and ongoing impacts of the program -- a total of \$135,422 for the biennium. Funding for this program will mean we can continue engaging new emerging leaders and offer training and networking opportunities to our more than 450 Alumnae.

Each of us have participated in NLO and now serve as members of the Board of Advisors and Alumnae Board. We can speak firsthand to the impact of this program on our lives and leadership.

Center for Women's Leadership
Board of Advisors

Chair

Martha Pellegrino
Brava Point LLC

Vice Chair

Cheryl Myers
Higher Education Coordinating
Commission

Executive Director

Traci Rossi

Program & Communications
Specialist

Mariana Lindsay

Program & Communications
Assistant

Bernice Benade

Advisory Board

Representative Teresa Alonso Leon
Oregon Legislature

Alison Arella
Cambia Health Solutions

Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici
United States Congress

Brenda Buratti
KGW & KGW.com

Jen Corbridge
Oregon Legislature

Nicole Frisch
First Tech Federal Credit Union

Council Member Kathleen George
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Carrie Hinton
Good & Gold Marketing

Marissa Johnson
NLO Alumna '09

Jane Paulson
Paulson Coletti Trial Attorneys PC

Dorianna Phillips
Stoel Rives, LLP

Annette Price
Pacific Power

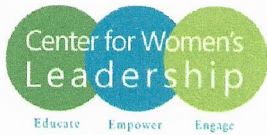
Dr. Barbara Ramirez-Spencer
Oregon Commission for Women

Connie Seeley
Oregon Health & Science University

Commissioner Loretta Smith
Multnomah County

Bobbi Stedman
Port of Portland

Commissioner Jessica Vega
Pederson
Multnomah County



“NEW Leadership Oregon is a critical program that prepares emerging, diverse women leaders to lead across sectors. My life's trajectory was greatly altered by the power of this program. Aside from the skills, network, and passion for service I acquired, NLO instilled within me a sense of clarity and purpose that I had not felt before. Since graduating from the program in 2013, I have had the privilege of serving on the Advisory Board as well as mentoring the 2015 and 2016 classes. Continued investment is critical to preserving the life changing power of NLO.” Jen Corbridge, NLO Class of 2013

“NEW Leadership Oregon gave me the confidence to go after my dreams! The skills I learned and the women I met at NLO have helped me to grow professionally, and personally, in the years since I participated in the program. I will forever be thankful for this program, and owe many of my successes to the training I received at NLO. I look forward to working with this organization for years to come, and hope to see more women from across the state participate in NLO.” - Tayleranne Gillespie, NLO Class of 2011

“NEW Leadership Oregon gave me confidence, knowledge, and community. I am able to successfully navigate my career as a young woman in politics knowing that I'm surrounded by a network of fellow alumnae who have actively supported me since I originally participated in NLO. With the Legislature's help, this organization can continue to inspire and train the next generation of young women leaders.” – Rachel Gowland, NLO Class of 2013

Sincerely,

Jen Corbridge '13

Center for Women's Leadership Advisory Board Member

Legislative Aide

Office of Alissa Keny-Guyer

Tayleranne Gillespie '11

Center for Women's Leadership Alumnae Board Member

Member Services Coordinator and Policy Analyst.

Senate Republican Office

Rachel Gowland '13

Center for Women's Leadership Alumnae Board Member

Legislative Assistant

Office of Carla Piluso