



April 3, 2019

To: Oregon Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

From: Jackilen Shannon, PhD
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Director, OCTRI Community and Collaboration Core
Associate Director, Knight Community Outreach and Engagement

RE: Support of OHSU State Appropriation

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain and members of the committee,

I would like to thank the legislature for its support of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute and the Knight Cancer Challenge. Without your support, OHSU would not have been able to leverage \$1 billion in philanthropy to support cancer research. Because of the state's support, OHSU Knight Cancer Institute will be able to invest \$10 million over 10 years in the Knight Community Partnership Program, a statewide program that provides funding to communities throughout the state for projects aimed at addressing the cancer needs of communities across Oregon.

The OHSU Knight Cancer Institute created the Community Partnership Program in response to the Knight Cancer Challenge. It's mission: to work hand-in-hand with Oregon communities as allies in the Knight Cancer Institute's efforts to end cancer as we know it.

By providing funding, training, and technical assistance, the program partners with local communities to:

- Support Oregon communities in identifying and addressing their most pressing cancer-related needs.
- Enhance collaboration between Oregon communities and OHSU to address local cancer issues and cancer health disparities.
- Foster the skills and abilities of communities to ensure efforts to address local cancer issues are sustainable long-term.

Since the program's inception in 2014, the Community Partnership Program has distributed more than \$2 million in funding opportunities throughout the state of Oregon. The program currently has 102 community-based projects serving all 36 counties of the state, and more than 80 percent of the projects are in Oregon's rural communities.

We prioritize community proposals that focus on addressing and working directly with populations facing cancer-related health disparities, including race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, geographic location and disability.

In 2018, the Knight Cancer Institute announced grant funding to 17 community-led projects around the state. Many of the newly funded entities will develop cancer programs to reach Latino, African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian and LGBTQ communities.

For example, the Oregon Institute of Technology received a grant to support the Klamath Basin Oral Health Coalition in conducting a needs assessment with Klamath County dental providers to determine training opportunities for patient education, awareness and screening for oral cancer.

Oregon communities and OHSU have mutually benefited from the new knowledge and new programs generated by this partnership. We are proud to serve as a national model on how an academic health center coupled with community action can deliver significant impact on the cancer-related needs of individual communities across the state. Thank you again for your support of the Knight Cancer Challenge and OHSU's work to end cancer as we know it for Oregonians across the state.

Thank you for your time and support.

Jackilen Shannon, PhD