

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Biology Department

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May 3, 2019

The Honorable Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
The Honorable Fred Girod, Co-Chair

900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey,

I am writing you today in support of Portland State University's capital construction request for the renovation of Science Building One (SB1). Portland State is requesting \$63M in Article XI – Q Bonds and \$10M in Article XI – G Bonds. The renovation of SB1 is key to serving the modern educational needs of PSU's diverse undergraduate student body.

I support this in light of being the PI of a NSF-funded S-STEM grant that aims to support high-achieving, low income STEM transfer students. The construction will allow us to host research-based labs for these and thousands of PSU students to experience valuable course-based research experiences. On a personal note, I am also a faculty member whose lab and office are in SB1, and as is, I have major concerns around the current infrastructure's capacity to support evidence-based teaching and learning for today's students.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important project for PSU Students.

Sincerely yours,
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ES", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erin Shortlidge, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology and Biology Education
Department of Biology
Portland State University
Office: 503-725-9305; eshortlidge@pdx.edu



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The construction of Science Building 1 will directly impact the successful implementation of BUILD EXITO. Building University Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) is an NIH funded program to implement and evaluate a multi-pronged student, faculty, and institutional intervention to enhance the diversity of the NIH biomedical research workforce. Enhancing Cross-disciplinary Infrastructure and Training at Oregon (EXITO) is one of the BUILD national sites and constitutes a partnership that includes Portland State University as the lead institution and several area community colleges, plus the Oregon Health and Science University.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important project for Oregon Students.

Yours for Health,

Carlos J. Crespo, DrPH, FACS
Professor, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health
Vice Provost, Undergraduate Training in Biomedical Research
Principal Investigator, BUILD EXITO

Cramer Hall Room 347, 1721 SW Broadway Portland, OR 97201
Phone: (503) 725-9280 Email: ccrespo@pdx.edu
Website: www.pdx.edu/exito

University Honors College

Dr. Brenda Glascott, Director
Post Office Box 751 503-725-9423 tel
Portland, Oregon 97207-0751 glascott@pdx.edu

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All Honors students study natural science research methodologies, learning to do ecological research under Dr. Starry, an NSF-funded green roof and stormwater researcher. Current teaching labs are inadequate, inhibiting our ability to train students for the careers in the future. PSU competes for grant money and for students with other universities, and our antiquated labs inhibit our competitiveness for both.

Your investment in the SB1 renovation is a contribution to increasing equity in science education: **by transforming the Honors teaching lab you are impacting the lives of PSU Honors students, 24% of whom are first-generation; 34% who are from historically underrepresented groups; and 45% who are Pell grant-eligible.** Investing in these students is investing in Oregon's future.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important project for PSU Students.

Sincerely yours,

Brenda Glascott

Brenda Glascott, PhD

PSU STEM Institute

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503-725-7838 tel
shustermang@pdx.edu



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The PSU STEM Education and Equity Institute is committed to creating and sustaining a student-centered, welcoming STEM environment dedicated to authentic excellence, that promotes success, engagement and well-being for ALL students. The STEM Institute leads a number of initiatives to increase the number and diversity of STEM graduates from PSU through innovative and inclusive STEM education and student programming to increase student STEM identity, sense of belonging and self-efficacy. A renovation of SB1 will provide facilities to broadly engage students in course based undergraduate research experiences (CURE) and a locus for student activities that promote student success and retention.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important project for PSU Students.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Shusterman", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Gwen Shusterman
Professor of Chemistry
Director of the STEM Education and Equity Institute