## **College of Liberal Arts & Sciences**

Biology Department

Post Office Box 751 503-725-8757 tel Portland, Oregon 97207-0751 503-725-3888 fax



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,

Erin Shortlidge, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Biology and Biology Education

Department of Biology

Portland State University

Office: 503-725-9305; eshortlidge@pdx.edu





May 3, 2019

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900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

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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.

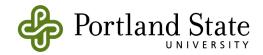
Carlos J. Crespo, DrPH, FACSM

Professor, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health

Vice Provost, Undergraduate Training in Biomedical Research

Principal Investigator, BUILD EXITO

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

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. This renovation funding is necessary to support the University Honors College's mission to transform the lives of working class and middle class students.

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 competiveness 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**

Cramer Hall 346 Post Office Box 751 Portland, Oregon 97207-0751 shustermang@pdx.edu

503-725-7838 tel



May 3, 2019

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

900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Girod and Holvey,

We are 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.

The PSU STEM Education and Equity Institute is committed to creating and sustaining a studentcentered, 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 selfefficacy. 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,

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Dr. Gwen Shusterman

**Professor of Chemistry** 

Director of the STEM Education and Equity Institute