



February 6, 2020

To: Senate Education Committee

From: Elena Andresen, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President
Oregon Health & Science University

In Support of Oregon Institute of Technology as Oregon's Polytechnic University

Chair Wagner and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to you today to express OHSU's support for SB 1539, which designates Oregon Institute of Technology as Oregon's Polytechnic University.

Oregon Tech is Oregon's only Polytechnic University and has been an exemplary partner to OHSU in building joint academic programs that focus on areas of high workforce demand for our state. OHSU and Oregon Tech have a long history of collaborating to educate and train the next generation of health professionals, particularly in service to rural and underserved communities.

Since 1977, Oregon Tech has partnered with OHSU to offer Paramedic Education and Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS), and in 2019 received approval for a joint Doctor of Physical Therapy program. The MLS program has a stunning job placement rate of nearly 100 percent within three to six months of graduation. It is the only four-year degree program of its kind in the state and the largest in the Pacific Northwest. Graduates of the program currently earn average starting salaries of \$57,000 and are in professional positions at virtually every medical lab in Oregon.

OHSU and Oregon Tech also collaborate with Sky Lakes Medical Center in order to provide opportunities for health occupation students to practice in rural settings, support the development of a rural health care workforce, and provide high-quality health care services at Sky Lakes Medical Center to rural Oregonians.

Both of our institutions were part of a recent agreement to share specialized research cores at OHSU, University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Portland State University, and Oregon Tech. This arrangement among our universities will allow scientists to work together more easily to advance scientific discovery and allow researchers to access dozens of specialized laboratories and centers housed in university facilities across Oregon.

Oregon Tech is a critical partner to OHSU. We ask you to vote yes on SB 1539 and designate Oregon Institute of Technology as Oregon's Polytechnic University.

Thank you.