

**8/10/2020**

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Members of the Joint Committee – I’m Becky Johnson, Vice President for OSU-Cascades in Bend. I am writing to ask that \$12.9 million in state bonds to fund the Student Success Center (SSC) at OSU-Cascades be included in SB 5721. The SSC is a 22,500 s.f. facility that will house vital programs focused on helping students complete their degree and successfully enter their career. It includes veteran’s support, internships, career advising, academic advising, disability access services, mental health counseling, a multicultural center, and other services.

We have been requesting funds for the SSC since 2017 without success, and every year the OSU-Cascades campus has grown, straining the capacity for us to provide these services. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission’s 10-year Strategic Capital Development Plan identified “significant deficits in student support space, open labs, collaboration space, assembly space, and offices” at OSU-Cascades – exactly the types of spaces planned for the Student Success Center.

Students at OSU-Cascades have demonstrated the importance of this project with their own investment. They are contributing \$5 million in student fees toward the Student Success Center. Most students who made this commitment will never enjoy the benefits of the Student Success Center, yet they understood its importance for future students. They are asking for the state to join them with another \$12.9 million to make this project a reality. I urge you to include the SSC in the projects funded in SB 5721, and not make students wait another year for this project.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Johnson

Vice President for OSU-Cascades