

# Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education

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## Meeting Summary – La Grande Field Trips May 10, 2022

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### Community Leaders Roundtable

Eastern Oregon University  
David E. Gilbert Event Center  
1 University Blvd, La Grande, OR 97850

Members Present: Sen. Dembrow, Sen. Findley, Sen. Frederick (ex officio), Rep. Owens, Rep. Ruiz

Members Excused: Sen. Robinson, Sen. Wagner, Rep. Alonso Leon, Rep. Zika

Non-Member legislators present: None

The task force convened at 8:15 AM at Eastern Oregon University (EOU) to meet with local education stakeholders. The meeting included invited members of the EOU Board of Trustees, EOU faculty and staff, Associated Students of EOU, College Possible, La Grande School District, Urban League of Portland, Shelter from the Storm, InterMountain Education Service District, and Eastern Oregon Workforce Board. The discussion addressed issues concerning supporting high school student transition to college, trades courses offered in high school, dual credits, college courses offered online, college affordability, stable and adequate funding, funding formula structure, increased outreach to parents and students about available financial aid resources, and financial aid structure and requirements.

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### Faculty and Staff Roundtable

Eastern Oregon University  
David E. Gilbert Event Center  
1 University Blvd, La Grande, OR 97850

Members Present: Sen. Dembrow, Sen. Findley, Sen. Frederick (ex officio), Rep. Owens, Rep. Ruiz

Members Excused: Sen. Robinson, Sen. Wagner, Rep. Alonso Leon, Rep. Zika

Non-member legislators present: None

The task force convened at 10:00 AM at Eastern Oregon University (EOU) to meet with EOU Faculty and Staff. The discussion addressed issues concerning financial aid requirements, college affordability, understaffing, increased student supports, supports for LGBTQ+ students, Spanish interpreters for community outreach, accessibility, staff diversity, accountability and transparency, and funding formula structure.

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## **Student Listening Session**

**Eastern Oregon University**  
**David E. Gilbert Event Center**  
**1 University Blvd, La Grande, OR 97850**

Members Present: Sen. Dembrow, Sen. Findley, Sen. Frederick, Rep. Owens, Rep. Ruiz

Members Excused: Sen. Robinson, Sen. Wagner, Rep. Alonso Leon, Rep. Zika

Other legislators present: None.

Fifteen students and alumni from Eastern Oregon University attended the listening session. Senator Dembrow, acting Chair, welcomed the students and task force members and explained the meeting's purpose and structure. Task force members sat in groups of one or two at tables with groups of four or five students. The students described their educational experiences and responded to questions from the task force members. At approximately 40-minute intervals, task force members moved to new tables to talk with different groups of students.

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## **Site Tour**

**Eastern Oregon University**

Members Present: Sen. Dembrow, Sen. Findley, Sen. Frederick, Rep. Owens, Rep. Ruiz

Members Excused: Sen. Robinson, Sen. Wagner, Rep. Alonso Leon, Rep. Zika

Other legislators present: None.

Two student tour guides led task force members on a tour of Eastern Oregon University's campus and were joined by: the university's president, Tom Insko; the Vice President for University Advancement, Tim Seydel; and Kyle Thomas of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The tour stopped at several locations on campus, including a historic staircase, a music class, the student center, and the theater. University officials described the university's sports programs, the states and countries students come from, and the language services the university provides.

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