

Oregon's Polytechnic University – HB 2472

You're a Poly-WHAT?

Oregon Institute of Technology – Oregon Tech – is the state's public polytechnic university. That means it specializes in **tech-infused degrees** and a unique teaching and learning approach that is hands-on, experiential and project-based. Students don't just learn theory, but actually apply the theory to projects in labs, in the field and other learning environments that form an **innovation and invention** ecosystem for professional practice while at the university. This approach prepares students for the jobs and careers they will be stepping into immediately after graduation, across all sectors and industries in Oregon, the region and further afield.

Designation as Oregon's Polytechnic University

HB 2472 would designate Oregon Tech as "Oregon's Polytechnic University" which delivers public value by exposing students and families to what a polytechnic university offers, and to determine if it is the right fit to meet a student's career goals. The designation helps to spread an awareness about what *polytechnic* means within the university setting, and its **experiential approach to learning** in STEM+M fields. Oregon Tech is also building the pipeline to in-demand workforce needs by working with high schools across the state to offer college credit to almost 1,400 students a year so they are prepared to succeed in today's technology-driven workforce.

A polytechnic designation can also **drive federal and private funding** to Oregon Tech for education programs and services that serve students within a polytechnic, industry- and workforce-focused learning environment.

The Polytechnic Difference

As a polytechnic university, Oregon Tech provides graduates with bachelor's and advanced degrees who **fuel Oregon's industries** from chip manufacturing to specialized healthcare to community-based nonprofits. Graduates bring strong skillsets to organizations because they have already been embedded in the same work – in internships, externships and co-op programs. The worth of a polytechnic education reflects graduates' professional experience, which also carries a high marketplace value. This is proven by Oregon Tech's graduates' **average starting salaries of \$60k**, the highest in Oregon; and employment or further education rates of 96% within six months of graduation.

Applied learning does not happen only within the university's walls



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Kelsey McCauley at kelsey.mccauley@oit.edu, or 503.348.9148