

May 10, 2021

Senator Lew Frederick,
Representative Susan McLain,
Co-Chairs, Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and members of the Ways and Means Education Subcommittee,

My name is Thomas Keyser, I am the Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Management at the Oregon Institute of Technology (Oregon Tech). Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of a 7.42 percent base funding increase to the university state programs budget, which includes the Engineering Technology Sustaining Funds.

The Engineering Technology Sustaining Funds (ETSF) are critical for Oregon Tech's ability to make engineering and technology education more accessible by serving more students and improving the ability to recruit and serve under-represented students. ETSF funds also ensure students have the academic support needed to graduate on time and engage in undergraduate research opportunities.

At Oregon Tech, ETSF funds support the ongoing operations/capacity of core engineering disciplines (mechanical, manufacturing, civil, electrical, renewable, computer, software, etc.) within the College of Engineering, Technology, and Management. This includes supporting 24 percent of Oregon Tech engineering faculty. ETSF funding also supports the creation of new degree programs aligned with industry demand such as Data Science and Cybersecurity - which has seen tripling enrollment from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020.

Funds from the ETSF are distributed to institutions under a formula that prioritizes Oregon resident's completing engineering degrees and is linked with their wages at Oregon companies. Oregon Tech is proud of our relationships with Oregon companies including Boeing, Hewlett-Packard, FLIR, Intel, Lithia, and Garmin who we partner with for internship and career opportunities for our students. These relationships ensure that Oregon Tech graduates have the skills industry needs upon graduation. These strong connections with our industry partners and engaged faculty contribute to the success of Oregon Tech graduates, who on average earn a starting salary of over \$60,000 per year and 96 percent are in graduate school or employed within six months of graduation.

As Oregon and the nation recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, continuing to provide educational access for engineering, technology, and related degrees are critical to ensure that students graduate into the workforce with industry focused degrees and for institutions to support those students throughout their educational careers. I urge your support for the 7.42 base funding increase for university state programs budget, which includes the ETSF, for the 2021-2023 biennium.

Sincerely,



Thomas Keyser, PhD
Dean, College of Engineering, Technology, and Management
Oregon Institute of Technology