



February 3, 2022

Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

As president of the University of Oregon, I am writing to show my support for requests made by the Oregon Coalition for Higher Education in Prison, which includes faculty from UO.

It is in society's best interest to support educational pathways for people in custody and we have the unique ability this legislative session to financially support the infrastructure to create successful programs, including bringing higher education to correctional facilities across the state.

With the reinstatement of Pell eligibility for incarcerated individuals in 2023, now is the time to prepare correctional facilities to best utilize these funds with technology access and online teaching platforms. Technology supporting remote learning has become a fixture for educational opportunity and should be granted to our most vulnerable populations.

Other states have processes in place to offer remote learning within their correctional facilities, and to support communities that are too often left behind. Allowing for educational opportunities within correctional facilities is not only an equity issue, but also an economic necessity as we provide all of the tools we can for a successful reentry.

I urge your support of including funding for the equipment and technology to support online learning for students in custody.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Schill". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael H. Schill  
President and Professor of Law