

House Interim Committee on Higher Education/Committee Hearing
Program Introduction
December 12, 2024
Speaker: Masami Nishishima Time limit: 2 minutes

Good morning, Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs McIntire and Ruiz, and members of the Interim Committee on Higher Education. For the record my name is Masami Nishishiba, I am also a Leadership Team member for the OCTPET (Oregon Community Table on Postsecondary Education and Training).

As you may notice, I have a speech impediment due to surgeries in recent years. To facilitate understanding, I have provided a hard copy of my testimony, which I kindly ask you to reference as I speak.

Briefly about myself: I have been a faculty member at Portland State University, since 2004, and was appointed as the Director of the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government, in 2023.

My research and teaching have focused on promoting civic engagement and inclusivity to ensure diverse voices are heard, which overlaps with the mission of OCTPET.

Earlier this year, my colleague Dr. Josh Eastin, Chair of the Department of Politics and Global Affairs, joined OCTPET's leadership team after learning about its mission. We believe that OCTPET's initiatives, such as legislative training for students, are essential for fostering civic engagement. Restoring trust in public institutions requires prioritizing civic education in higher education.

Thank you, if it's alright with you Chair, I will ask my colleague, Jaime Rodriguez to speak next.