

Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

Professor Birol Yeşilada, Director

Professor Reza Rejaie, Associate Director

Associate Professor Rakesh Bobba, Associate Director

Mr. Oliver Grant, Finance and Operations Manager

February 28th, 2025





Purpose of OCCOE

The purpose of the Center is to supplement the activities of the State of Oregon's Chief Information Officer regarding cybersecurity in Oregon by coordinating, funding, or providing:

- **Awareness, education, and training** about cybersecurity and cybersecurity-related issues for public, private and nonprofit sectors,
- Cybersecurity **workforce development** programs in coordination with:
 - Public universities listed in ORS 352.002
 - Community colleges operated under ORS chapter 341, and
 - Science, technology, engineering and mathematics and career and technical education programs.
- **Research** about:
 - Research about cybersecurity education and training methodologies,
 - Research and development of cybersecurity technologies, tools, policies, and processes, and
- **Cybersecurity-related goods and services** to public bodies, with priority given to local governments, regional governments, special districts, education service districts, school districts, and libraries.



Achievements Since September 2024

Center Achievements

- Major progress in creation of **TSOC** at UO
 - Hiring an SOC engineer
 - Developing the initial curriculum and services
 - Exploring partnership with major vendors
 - Assessing needs of local stakeholders in Lane county
- **ORTSOC** at OSU
 - In talks with or engaged 4 additional partners
 - Currently served include: 2 rural ESDs, 4 small-to-medium Oregon cities, 1 Oregon county, 3 regional educational institutions
 - Training 35+ students this AY
- Participated and Sponsored **TAO Fall Expo**
 - 5 General Sessions and 6 Different Tracks
 - 90 Min Real Life Table Top Exercise
 - Students and Industry Leaders in Attendance
- Hired new Sr. Program Manager for NW Cyber Camps
- Hired new Network Analyst for UO

Additional \$1.7M Funding

- Workforce Ready Round III: Technology
 - Expands Certificate Program to cover Nine Oregon Tribes
 - Awarded **\$604,378** expires 6/30/26
- Mentoring HS students to pursue Cybersecurity training
 - Establishing Cybersecurity curriculum in Oregon High Schools
 - Awarded **\$500,000** expires 6/30/26
- GenCyber Camp 2024
 - Expanded funding for NW Cyber Camps for another year
 - Awarded **\$552,163** expires 12/31/26

| | | | |
|------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| PSU | \$173,472.51 | OIT | \$73,998.64 |
| COCC | \$59,367.74 | OSU - Student | \$90,000.00 |
| UO | \$65,324.56 | OSU - Teacher | \$90,000.00 |



Recorded Testimonials & Endorsements

Recorded Testimonials

- **City of Lebanon** - [Brent Hurst](#)
- **City of Tualatin** - [Bates Russel](#)
- **Malheur Education Service District** - [Randy Seals](#)

Endorsements from:

Skip Newberry, President & CEO
Technology Association of Oregon



February 9, 2025

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senator
521 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Letter of Support – Portland State University FY 2026 Funding Request

Dear Senator Wyden and Merkley,

On behalf of the Technology Association of Oregon (TAO), I write to express our support for Portland State University's FY 2026 community project funding request to create a training program on introductory cybersecurity for local industry and residents. This request has the ability to tour pristine locations in Portland and support local industry partners who will benefit from this investment.

PSU's request would include nine one-day long virtual introductory cybersecurity seminars followed by advanced certificate actions: (a) a 12 week non-credit cybersecurity certification program for local industry partners; (b) a 12 week non-credit cybersecurity certification for local residents; and (c) participants will have opportunities to engage in training sessions, simulations, and interactions with practitioners and trainers from Oregon CISA, FBI, and local industry partners, including, Sodexho, Sodexo, and other local industry partners.

The creation of this training program will continue to strengthen the strong partnership between TAO and Portland State University. We are committed to partnering with local academic partners to ensure that our community has the quality of life in our area and bring innovative opportunities for our local industry and residents.

Thank you for your consideration of PSU's FY 2026 community project funding request and we hope the Committee includes it in the appropriations bill.

Sincerely,


Skip Newberry
President, CEO, TAO
skip.newberry@tahoregon.org

Nolan Plete, Lobbyist
League of Oregon Cities



February 13, 2025

The Honorable Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator
211 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Letter of Support – Portland State University FY 2026 Funding Request

Dear Senator Ron Wyden:

On behalf of the League of Oregon Cities (LOC), I write to express our support for Portland State University's FY 2026 community project funding request to create a training program on introductory cybersecurity for local industry and residents. This request has the ability to tour pristine locations in Portland and support local industry partners who will benefit from this investment.

PSU's request would include nine one-day long virtual introductory cybersecurity seminars followed by advanced certificate actions: (a) a 12 week non-credit cybersecurity certification program for local industry partners; (b) a 12 week non-credit cybersecurity certification for local residents; and (c) participants will have opportunities to engage in training sessions, simulations, and interactions with practitioners and trainers from Oregon CISA, FBI, and local industry partners, including, Sodexho, Sodexo, and other local industry partners.

The creation of this training program will continue to strengthen the strong partnership between LOC and Portland State University. We are committed to partnering with local academic partners to ensure that our community has the quality of life in our area and bring innovative opportunities for our local industry and residents.

Thank you for your consideration of PSU's FY 2026 community project funding request and we hope the Committee includes it in the appropriations bill.

Sincerely,


Nolan Plete
Lobbyist, The League of Oregon Cities (LOC)



Beach Pace, Mayor
City of Hillsboro



February 14, 2025

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senator
521 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Letter of Support – Portland State University FY 2026 Funding Request

Dear Senator Jeff Merkley:

On behalf of the City of Hillsboro, we write to express support for Portland State University's FY 2026 community project funding request to create a training program on introductory and artificial intelligence assessments and resilience. This request has the ability to tour pristine locations in Hillsboro and support local partners who will benefit from this investment.

PSU's request would include a 1 year project to create software to build awareness of and manage the risks of artificial intelligence and a community based training program supporting private and public entities including local and county governments, special districts, nonprofit organizations, and other entities in the community. This request will provide opportunities for Hillsboro and the surrounding area to learn about AI and AI risks and how to mitigate them. This request will also provide opportunities for Hillsboro and the surrounding area to learn about AI and AI risks and how to mitigate them.

The creation of this training program will continue to strengthen the strong partnership between the City of Hillsboro and Portland State University. We are committed to partnering with local academic partners, the PSU, and local industry partners to ensure that the quality of life in our area and bring innovative opportunities for our local industry and residents.

Thank you for your consideration of PSU's FY 2026 community project funding request and we hope the Committee includes it in the appropriations bill.

Sincerely,


Beach Pace
Mayor

Frank Stratton, Executive Director
Special District Association of Oregon



To: Member of the Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology

From: Frank Stratton, Executive Director
Special Districts Association of Oregon

Date: February 26, 2025

Re: Support for the Oregon Cybersecurity Task Force

We are writing on behalf of the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) to express our strong support for the Oregon Cybersecurity Task Force (OCTF). The OCTF is a critical initiative that will significantly enhance the cybersecurity readiness of Oregon's special districts, including water and wastewater, fire districts, ports, ports, transit, hospitals, and public utility districts.

Cybersecurity threats are becoming increasingly sophisticated and pervasive, posing significant risk to the essential services provided by our special districts. These entities often have limited resources and expertise to address these threats. The OCTF will provide much-needed support and resources to help our special districts stay ahead of these threats. The OCTF will also facilitate collaboration and information sharing among our special districts, ensuring that we are well-equipped to defend against cyber threats. The nearly 1,000 Oregon special districts, nearly 90% of which are small, rural, and often have limited resources, will benefit greatly from this program. The OCTF will serve as a centralized resource, offering training, resources, and support to help our special districts better defend against these threats.

The benefits of the OCTF to Oregon's special districts are numerous:

1. Enhanced Security Measures: By providing our special districts with cybersecurity tools, resources, and training, the OCTF will help special districts proactively identify and mitigate potential cyber threats.
2. Improved Collaboration: The OCTF will facilitate a training program tailored to the unique needs of special districts, ensuring that staff are well-equipped to defend against cyber threats.
3. Cybersecurity Best Practices: The OCTF will facilitate collaboration and information sharing among our special districts, allowing them to learn from one another and adopt best practices that can effectively address common cybersecurity issues.
4. Incident Response Support: In the event of a cyber incident, the OCTF will provide resources and support to help our special districts respond quickly and minimize the impact on their operations and the communities they serve.



High Priorities for 2025-2027

1. **Expand ORTSOC** at OSU and TSOC at UO.
2. **Cyber Range** (location TBD)
 - Negotiations in place with private sector companies for sponsoring a Cyber Range for OCCOE for use by all sites and programs.
3. Funding for **non-credit cybersecurity certificate** for local and regional governments at PSU.
4. Hiring **Security Analysts** for incident reporting, assessment, information sharing, and best practices.
5. Expansion of OCCOE to include other participating **universities (i.e., OIT)**.
6. Expansion of **Outreach Awareness Programs** targeting communities.

Additional Funding Needs for Expanding OCCOE Operations and Workforce Development



| | | Next Biennium | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Additional Asks | | Year 1 | Year 2 | Total |
| LGP | Local Grant Program | \$375,000 | \$375,000 | \$750,000 |
| Workforce Development | | | | |
| Total | Expansion of Partner University & SOC | \$1,343,937 | \$1,370,772 | \$2,714,709 |
| ALL | Cyber Range Platform | \$470,000 | \$880,000 | \$1,350,000 |
| ALL | Cyber Security Training for Secondary School Teachers | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$200,000 |
| Total Workforce Development | | \$1,913,937 | \$2,350,772 | \$4,264,709 |
| Operating Funds | | | | |
| Total Operating Expenses | | \$674,103 | \$687,126 | \$1,361,229 |
| NEXT BIENNIMUM FUNDING ASK | | \$2,963,039 | \$3,412,898 | \$6,375,937 |

^{^ \$5,625,937 without LGP}



Thank You for Listening

APPENDIX

Budget Allocation and Expenditures

Operations - funds received in November 2023

- By end of June 30th, 2025
 - Spend = \$2,010K
 - Budget = \$2,500K
 - Variance = \$490K
- Expect to fully consume by November '25

Grant Program Fund

- By end of June 30th, 2025
 - Spend = \$0
 - Budget = \$250K
 - Variance = \$250K
- Don't expect to fully consume until a process is put in place



Workforce Development

- ORTSOC
- UO's undergraduate degree and certificate
- NW Cybercamp
- MHCC scholarship Fund
- By end of June 30th, '25
 - Spend = \$1,809K
 - Budget = \$2,150K
 - Variance = \$341K
- OSU and PSU to fully consume by November 2025
- UO to fully consume by April '26