



January 28, 2025

Oregon House Higher Education Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for the Sustainable City Year Program at the University of Oregon

Dear Members of the Oregon House Higher Education Committee,

On behalf of the University of Oregon's School of Journalism and Communication, I am writing to express our strong support for the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) at the University of Oregon. Having collaborated with and contributed to this outstanding initiative, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact SCYP has on both my students and communities across the state.

SCYP facilitates the integration of project-based learning into the classroom, which not only enhances students' understanding of the material and develops their 'soft' professional skills, but also provides tangible benefits to the communities they partner with. When students know their efforts may help an actual Oregon community, they work harder, resulting in greater learning outcomes and more significant community benefits. SCYP adds immense value to students, communities, and educators at the university level.

A key strength of SCYP is its collaborative, statewide approach. Our partnership with the program has demonstrated the power of universities working together to serve Oregon communities, bringing diverse perspectives and expertise to the table. SCYP's success hinges on its ability to unite institutions of higher education, local governments, and civic organizations in pursuit of common goals. This cross-institutional effort not only enriches the student experience but also ensures that cities and towns throughout Oregon, regardless of size or resources, can benefit from forward-thinking solutions tailored to their unique needs.

We urge you to support sustainable and ongoing funding for the Sustainable City Year Program and recognize it as an invaluable asset to Oregon's public universities and the communities we serve. Investment in SCYP will help ensure that students across the state gain practical experience, cities receive actionable solutions, and Oregon remains a leader in innovative university-community partnerships.

Thank you for your attention and for your ongoing commitment to higher education and community development in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juan-Carlos Molleda'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray grid background.

Juan-Carlos Molleda, PH.D.

Edwin L. Artzt Dean and Professor since 2016