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Dear Honorable Officials,

Klamath Falls has been bestowed with a gem for 60 plus years, our Dental Clinic and Hygiene program administered by the Oregon Institute of Technology. This fine program is located in Semon Hall on campus. A useful building that has served the university well, but it is time to grow beyond those walls.

Why is it crucial to improve and expand this facility and its programs? Workforce restoration: Klamath Falls is becoming a hub for innovative medical field education. We all agree that the population is aging, and more health professionals are in dire need. Expansion and modernization of this facility is crucial in meeting those needs.

I have seen firsthand the student base and their impact on our community. They provide a professional, living wage workforce that improves the living standards for families. Many of them have practiced their learned skills on myself and others. We are proud of the services that they offer to many of the folks that cannot attain them in other capacities.

Having a clinic that provides hands-on skills to the students while providing essential health improvement to our citizens is immeasurable. The physical improvement of those utilizing the services is key to raising our lower health metrics for rural Oregon. Additionally, an often-missed component of value is the social maintenance achieved. Many who use this program have very limited social interaction in their lives. This provides a chance to improve their mental health by much needed social discourse. It also provides a window to practitioners to identify other health risk factors that may be missed otherwise.

Finally, at a recent roundtable discussion with state and local leaders, the question arose about the need to develop sustainability at local levels to relieve the ever-growing burden on state and federal funding. I believe that this is a prime example of working toward that goal. A prudent investment by both entities as expressed by the administration at Oregon Tech would give the needed impetus. They have shown a long track record of good stewardship with their program. The state benefits tremendously as well by increasing the capability to provide well-trained professionals earning and returning value in a much quicker timeframe than more regimented health programs. The return on investment is simple and clear.

As a participant in local vitality and business alike, I fully support Oregon Institute of Technology and their bid to expand the Semon Hall renovation and expansion for academic success. Please put their request in your highest priority category. It is a win for us all!

Respectfully,



Michael Angeli  
Owner – The Ledge Outdoor Store