



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFICE OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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November 22, 2006

Governor Ted Kulongoski
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97030-4047

Dear Governor Kulongoski:

Congratulations on your re-election. We look forward to your continuing leadership as our "Education Governor" heading into a new dynamic era in Salem. As leaders of almost all of the institutions of higher education and research located in the City of Portland, we are writing with regard to the Oregon Opportunity Grants provided, and the ASPIRE program administered, by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC).

We deeply appreciate your leadership in the 2005 legislative session, when the allocation for Oregon Opportunity Grants was increased by 77% to \$78 million. Unfortunately, sizable increases in tuition and fees at both public and private educational institutions have priced education out of reach for many students, and another significant investment is required.

Like you, we value accessible education in Oregon. We all know an educated and trained workforce is essential to the economic and cultural vitality of our communities and state. While post-secondary education certainly provides students with direct benefits, their education benefits Oregon and its communities as well.

We regret Oregon's economic struggles have resulted in decreased state funding for higher education. These economic and related political trends have left students directly carrying a larger proportion of educational expenses. Those who do pursue college education often graduate with unmanageable amounts of debt, a trend that is causing increasing alarm.

Therefore, we endorse the principles and objectives of the proposed "Shared Responsibility Model" for determining Oregon Opportunity Grant eligibility and expansion of funding for that program. We understand an increase of at least \$22 million will be proposed to the 2007 Legislature to begin implementing the Shared Responsibility Model in the next biennium. We endorse this effort and offer you our assistance in furthering this goal.

Additionally, we believe a chronic problem in Oregon is the lack of solid advising for students regarding their post-secondary plans and how to finance them. As you know, the ASPIRE program, also administered by OSAC, helps students through one-on-one volunteer mentoring support, reaching students who may not consider themselves "college bound" at more than 80 high schools in Oregon. We urge your support of legislation and the necessary appropriation to expand the benefits of ASPIRE to all our state's high schools.

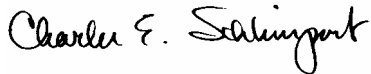
Your resolve to lead Oregon forward with your "Education Enterprise" is inspiring. We are here to support you realizing this worthy and reachable goal. Please call on us for assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Sam Adams, Portland Commissioner
Portland Higher Education Advocate



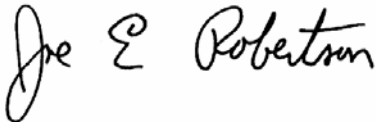
Daniel Bernstine, President
Portland State University



Charles E. Schlimpert, President
Concordia University



Colin Diver, President
Reed College



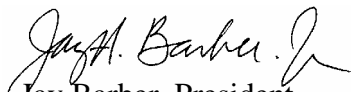
Joseph Robertson, President
Oregon Health & Science University



Preston Pulliams, President
Portland Community College



Steven Goldman, President
Art Institute of Portland

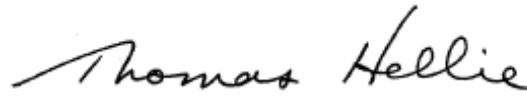


Jay Barber, President
Warner Pacific College

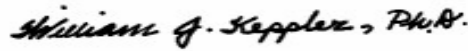
Tom Potter, Mayor
City of Portland



Jennifer White, President
Western Culinary Institute



Thomas Hellie, President
Linfield College

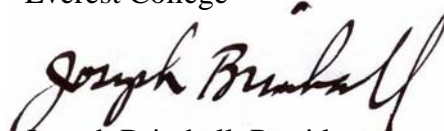


William Keppler, President
National College of Naturopathic Medicine



Dave Frohnmayer
University of Oregon

Micaela Sieracki, President
Everest College



Joseph Brimhall, President
Western States Chiropractic College



Rev. E. William Beauchamp, President
University of Portland