

Public and Government Affairs Update



Left to right: Bill Bach, Trammell Crow; Steve Wells, Trammell Crow; Dave Conley, EPIC; Dan Hoechlin, ORI; Carol Metzler, ORI; Diane Wiley, UO; Kimberly Espy, UO; Mayor Kitty Piercy, City of Eugene; Henry Fitzgibbon, Soderstrom Architects; and Steve Sieber, Trammel Crow.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

ORI, EPIC break ground at Riverfront Research Park facility

Community leaders, business leaders, and University of Oregon faculty and staff members gathered March 14 for a ground breaking ceremony for a new facility at the UO's Riverfront Research Park. The \$17 million, 80,000-square-foot building at 1700 Millrace Drive will be home to the Oregon Research Institute (ORI) and the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC). Both nonprofit organizations have strong ties to the UO. The Riverfront Research Park, located adjacent to campus, is a master-planned development that has been home to more than seventy companies or organizations.

Site work for the new ORI-EPIC headquarters building began in December. According to the project's lead developer, 70 percent of all work on the project will be done by subcontractors from the Eugene area or the Willamette Valley. Construction will generate an estimated 70,000 hours of work.

Kimberly Andrews Espy, UO vice president for research and innovation and dean of the Graduate School, offered remarks on behalf of the university at the event. Citing the new facility as an example, Espy highlighted the importance of cooperation among business, government, and the community to the economic prosperity of the region. She talked further about the role that the UO's technology transfer services plays in translating innovations from UO-affiliated centers like ORI and EPIC into societal and commercial applications. Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, ORI researcher Carol Metzler, EPIC CEO David Conley, and Trammel Crow Company Director Steve Wells also offered remarks.

Local dignitaries, including City of Eugene staff members and representatives from the offices of Congressman Peter DeFazio and U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, attended the event.

An election year reminder

In light of the upcoming May primary elections, the University of Oregon general counsel has prepared this information regarding election activity in the workplace.

Oregon law prohibits the use of public funds, equipment, and supplies to advocate for or against a ballot measure or candidate and restricts what public employees (which include University of Oregon employees) may do in support of or opposition to a ballot measure or candidate.

Please see **Election activity in the workplace** on the next page for a comprehensive list of information.

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For more information or to invite government officials to a University of Oregon event, please contact Government and Community Relations at 541-346-5020 or at gcr@uoregon.edu. We can help!

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Election activity in the workplace

Public employees on their work time may NOT:

- collect funds, distribute campaign materials, or prepare correspondence on behalf of a political committee, ballot measure, or candidate;
- produce, copy, or distribute documents that advocate for or against a ballot measure or a candidate;
- post website information, transmit e-mails, or make a presentation that advocates for or against a ballot measure or candidate;
- make outgoing calls to schedule or organize campaign events or other political activity;
- encourage others to volunteer for a political committee or efforts related to a candidate or ballot measure;
- place political posters in a public work space or facing out on doors or windows;
- distribute political flyers.

Public employees MAY:

- use personal time, lunch hours, breaks, and days off for political activity;
- express personal political views;
- wear campaign buttons at work;
- provide balanced, objective information on ballot measures;
- impartially advise other public employees about possible effects of a ballot measure;
- use personal time and personal equipment to write letters in their personal capacity expressing an opinion on a ballot measure or candidate.

STATE RELATIONS

OEIB, State Board discuss governance issues

The Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) met on March 13 and again on March 27 to discuss and ratify achievement compacts with school districts, community colleges, the Oregon University System, and individual universities as well as other educational entities in the state. The achievement compacts come as the result of [Senate Bill 1581](#), which passed through the Oregon Legislature during the month-long 2012 session.

SB 1581 allows the OEIB to enter into achievement compacts with educational institutions, including individual universities. These achievement compacts include goals for the individual institutions and metrics to measure progress toward those goals as a way to move the state toward achieving its [40-40-20 goals](#). The University of Oregon, along with other universities and educational institutions, presented the board with its [proposed achievement compact](#), which the board discussed and ratified.

Members of the committee agreed that state universities should be allowed to establish governing boards, but still have not settled on what powers those boards should have.

Governance issues also took center stage at the Oregon State Board of Higher Education's Committee on Governance, which met on March 16 to discuss the idea of institutional governing boards. UO Interim President Bob Berdahl joined Oregon State University President Ed Ray and Portland State University President Win Wievel in offering thoughts to the governance committee on institutional boards. The members of the committee also heard from Jay Kenton, OUS vice chancellor for finance and administration. After the presentations, board members and the presenters engaged in a conversation about boards, their potential duties, and divisions of responsibilities with existing institutions.

Members of the committee agreed that state universities should be allowed to establish governing boards, but still have not settled on what powers those boards should have. The board must make a recommendation on institutional governing boards for universities next month to the Special Committee on University Governance established by the legislature in February. The board's governance committee will meet again next month to settle on what it will recommend for institutional boards before reporting to the special committee.

The Special Committee on University Governance, created by [House Bill 4061](#), is scheduled to begin meeting in April. It is tasked with recommending legislation to the 2013 legislature that creates a way forward for universities in seeking institutional boards. The committee will release its preliminary report in August 2012.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS**Three UO employees recognized as 'Everyday Heroes'**

Two officers with the University of Oregon Department of Public Safety and a UO journalism faculty member received awards as "Everyday Heroes" from the American Red Cross Oregon Pacific Chapter on March 15.

Officer Adam Lillengreen was recognized as a "Professional Rescue Hero" for his part in pulling an unconscious UO student out of a burning apartment last June. Lillengreen also credits Lieutenant Andy Bechdolt for helping to search the smoke-filled apartment for residents.



Officer Adam Lillengreen

Officer Andrew Johnson and journalism senior instructor Mark Blaine were recognized as "Adult Life Saving Heroes" for their teamwork in resuscitating a UO student who collapsed on campus last November. Blaine saw the student collapse and immediately began CPR, while Johnson quickly brought an Automated External Defibrillator to apply a life-saving shock. The student was taken to the hospital and eventually recovered fully.



Officer Andrew Johnson (left) and Mark Blaine

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers, provides relief to victims of disaster and helps people prevent, prepare

for, and respond to emergencies. The Oregon Pacific Chapter serves more than 711,000 individuals in Benton, Coos, Douglas, Lane, and Linn Counties. The annual "Everyday Heroes" luncheon honors ordinary people who perform extraordinary lifesaving and compassionate acts.

FEDERAL RELATIONS**Members of Oregon delegation sign 'Dear Colleague' letters to fund university priorities**

Members of Oregon's congressional delegation signed letters of support for funding in fiscal year 2013 (FY2013) for several appropriation bills for University of Oregon and higher education priorities. The letters support funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and student financial aid.

Oregon members of Congress Peter DeFazio (D-Oregon), Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon), and Suzanne Bonamici (D-Oregon) signed onto a [bipartisan letter](#) that seeks at least \$32 billion for the NIH in FY2013. The letter was spearheaded by Congressmen Ed Markey (D-Massachusetts) and Brian Bilbray (R-California). It recognizes "the important role of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in job creation, economic growth, and bettering the lives of millions of Americans."

DeFazio, Blumenauer, and Bonamici also signed onto [a letter](#) supporting \$154.3 million in funding for the NEH in FY2013—the amount that the Administration requested in its recently released budget request. The letter was circulated by Congressman David Price (D-North Carolina). According to the letter, investment in the humanities "advances vital U.S. interests by fostering

a globally competitive workforce, strengthening civic engagement, preserving our cultural heritage, and protecting our national security."

Finally, Senators Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) and Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon) signed onto a letter asking appropriators to maintain Pell Grant eligibility and sustain the current program funding level to fully fund the maximum award scheduled for FY2013. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California) circulated the letter, which communicates the importance of Pell grants to students of lower- and moderate-income backgrounds.

Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have started to hold hearings on FY2013 appropriations bills and are expected to release draft bills in the coming months.

FEDERAL RELATIONS**House Budget Committee releases proposal, calls for more spending cuts**

House Budget Committee Chairman Congressman Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin) released his FY2013 budget proposal on March 20. The budget proposes to cut spending significantly on a wide variety of domestic discretionary and entitlement programs while protecting defense spending. The measure, which was marked up in the House Budget Committee March 21 and passed by the full House on March 29, also calls for revamping Medicare and Medicaid, repealing health care reform, and overhauling the tax code.

The budget resolution introduced by Chairman Ryan would set FY13 discretionary spending about \$19 billion below the \$1.047 trillion level approved with bipartisan support in last year's Budget Control Act (BCA). The plan

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would set defense discretionary spending at \$554 billion, or about \$8 billion above the BCA level. Domestic discretionary spending would be set at \$474 billion, or about \$27 billion below the BCA level.

The proposal calls for putting the Pell Grant on a “sustainable path” by limiting the growth of financial aid and focusing it on lower-income students, although it does not propose specific spending levels for the \$40 billion program. Ryan has proposed substantial cuts in the past.

The plan also calls for making more data on colleges available to students and creating policies that maximize innovation and ensure a robust menu of institutional options from which students and their families are able to choose. Another proposal—an accounting change that would affect how student loans are viewed on the government’s balance sheet—could imperil future expansions to student loan programs by changing how the program costs are scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

While the budget calls for maintaining current levels of basic research funding, cuts in domestic programs are likely to translate into cuts in research programs.

Chairman Ryan’s proposal comes just weeks after the Administration released its FY2013 budget proposal. Both documents are launching pads for symbolic and political debate to occur. The decisions about final funding will come through the legislative appropriations process. Meanwhile, Senate leaders say they will stick with the agreed-to discretionary spending

level of \$1.047 trillion. They expect to move a resolution soon that would enable Senate appropriators to begin moving their FY13 bills.

Read *Inside Higher Ed*’s budget summary [here](#).

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

UO Interim President Berdahl presents on Education Partnership to OEIB

The Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) invited University of Oregon Interim President Robert Berdahl to its March 13 meeting to talk about the UO’s role in the “Educational Partnership”—a collaboration of Lane county school districts, Lane Community College, and the UO. Berdahl appeared before the panel with Springfield Public Schools Superintendent Nancy Golden and Lane Community College President Mary Spilde. Golden and Spilde also serve as members of the OEIB, with Golden serving as the chair of the board in the governor’s absence.

Berdahl, Golden, and Spilde described for the panel the Educational Partnership that was formed to improve connections between school districts and higher education institutions in Lane County. Through information sharing and cooperation, the partnership works to find ways to aid students in their education transitions. It also seeks to identify shared strengths, issues, and concerns; address systemic barriers to equity and accessibility for all students; explore opportunities for cooperation; and discover resources that can benefit partners.

The presenters focused on the Educational Partnership’s “College Ready Lane County” initiative, a program developed in partnership with the Education Policy Improvement Center. Its work and programs are based on the four keys to college- and career-readiness success—content, cognitive skills, learning skills, and transition skills—and focuses on networking and communication between faculty members at high school and college institutions.

Berdahl emphasized the added benefit that the UO’s [College of Education](#) brings to the partnership, through best practices and as a source of the latest research.



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