

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES ARE

BUILDING OREGON'S ECONOMY

Oregon's seven public universities are essential to the state's economic future. They educate nearly 100,000 students annually, support employers in every region, and help build the skilled workforce Oregon needs to grow and compete.

Through teaching, research, and public service, public universities fuel the state economy and support local communities across all 36 counties.

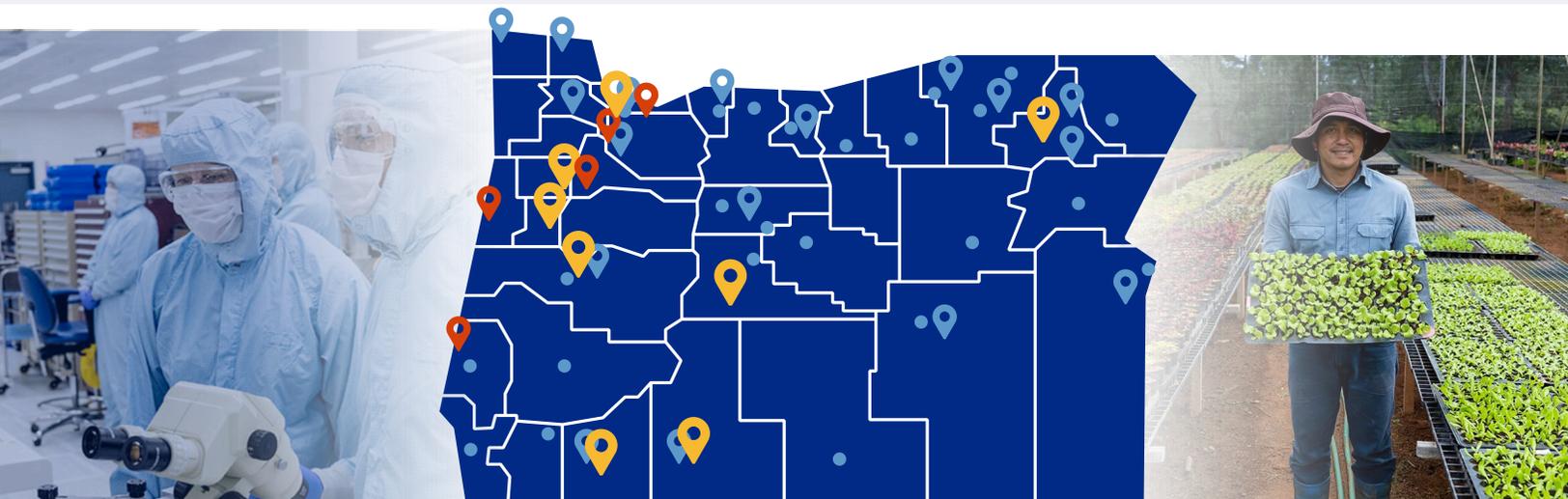
\$11 BILLION

in economic activity is generated by public universities each year, ~4% of Oregon's total GDP.

At a time when Oregon is facing difficult budget decisions, maintaining stable funding for public universities is critical. Cuts to funding would weaken the state's talent pipeline, limit access for Oregon students, and make it harder for the state, communities, and employers to meet workforce needs.

This session, please:

- 1. Protect public universities' base operational funding.**
- 2. Protect need-based financial aid.**



Public universities serve every region of Oregon. Our campuses, programs, research sites, and partnerships connect education to local workforce and community needs statewide.

UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
AUXILIARY CAMPUS
OTHER UNIVERSITY FACILITY

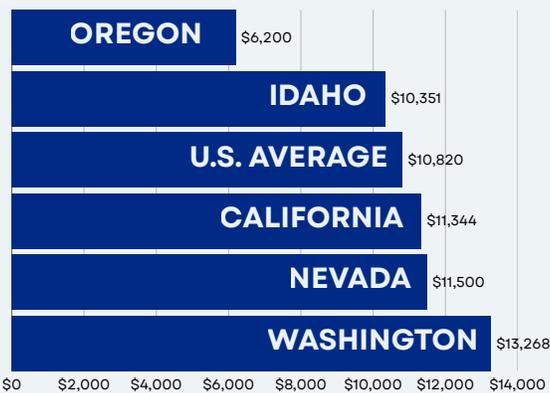
IN OREGON, THERE'S A CAMPUS FOR EVERYONE.

OPU Coalition of Oregon Public Universities

Oregon has made important progress in supporting higher education over the past decade, and we appreciate that partnership. Protecting this progress matters, as Oregon’s public universities are still operating from a position of underinvestment.

Oregon ranks **46th nationally** in per-student public university funding. As a result, tuition is higher than in many neighboring states, making it easier for Oregon students to leave and harder for the state to retain home-grown talent.

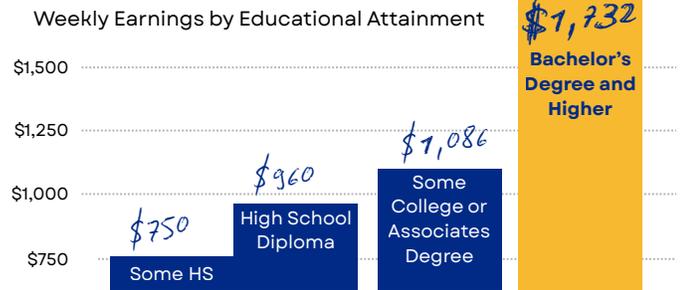
State Education Appropriations per Full-Time Equivalent Student at Four-Year Institutions, FY 2024



Source: 2024 State Higher Education Finance Report. State Higher Education Executive Officers Association.

A recent Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) analysis found that Oregon’s public universities operate efficiently, with cost growth driven by statewide and national pressures common to public institutions, rather than spending excessively.

As you weigh difficult budget choices this year, we urge you to protect the progress made and keep more Oregonians on track to complete degrees and step into Oregon jobs.



“Western Oregon University provided me with a strong foundation in accounting and prepared me well for my role in governmental accounting. The support and encouragement I received helped me build confidence and deepen my understanding of the skills I rely on every day in my work. That experience allowed me to stay in Oregon, finish my degree, and enter the public sector ready to contribute. Continued investment in public universities ensures more students can do the same.”



- Chelsea Gardner,
WOU Class of 2025 &
Accountant II for the
City of Independence

“For more than six years, our collaboration with the Child Welfare Partnership at Portland State University has shown the value of deep, sustained partnership in workforce development. Co-designing training with frontline expertise at the center has led to stronger, more prepared staff and better outcomes for youth. This work underscores how critical cross-sector partnerships are to the future of the human services field.”



- Kendra Phillips,
Executive Director,
Jackson Street
Youth Services

