Preserving Culture, Language, and History for all Oregonians: How the UO Partners With Federal Humanities Agencies

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and other humanities programs provide opportunities for collaboration among students and faculty, similar to those in the sciences, and helps sustain the pipeline of young humanities researchers and scholars.

Providing Culturally Responsive and Inclusive Online Indigenous Language Courses

The Northwest Indian Language Institute (NILI) and the UO Language Revitalization Lab are two organizations working to stabilize Indigenous languages in the Pacific Northwest and nationally. NILI has offered an annual two-week summer institute since 1997 and now supports tribal language teachers and learners year-round. The Language Revitalization Lab partners with the National Breath of Life (BoL) Archival Institute to help tribes develop community-curated archives that directly respond to language revitalization goals.

In 2020, NILI received a pandemic relief federal grant, followed in 2021 by a NEH ARP grant that supported both organizations. At NILI the grant funded an emerging array of online professional development courses to support Native teachers in areas such as methodology, curriculum development, and materials creation. At BoL the grant helped to move archives-based research training from a face-to-face workshop to a self-directed, online format. Faculty partnered with UO’s Center for Applied Second Language Studies to develop videos and self-paced training programs while continuing to adapt to changing needs for in person and remote options.

NEH funding provided support for multiple courses for Native language teachers, two professional development courses for K-12 teachers and administrators, and multiple learning modules for archival research. Faculty will continue to offer courses in NILI’s online Summer Institute offerings thanks to NEH funds and an additional grant from Oregon’s Department of Education.
Creating Innovative Approaches to Language Learning

The Center for Applied Second Language Studies (CASLS) at University of Oregon is one of 16 Title VI National Foreign Language Resource Centers across the country. These centers form a national network to support world language education. CASLS is active in the community with partnerships in Eugene-4J School District, Portland Public Schools, and Lane Community College. Efforts integrate innovative technology and language learning to support 21st century global readiness and immersion for K-16 students during and after school.

Increasing Access to Science and Cultural Learning for Rural Youth

With a $97,000 ARPA Institute of Museum and Library Sciences grant, the UO’s Museum of Natural and Cultural History is helping address some of the emerging concerns over education equity by sending two traveling exhibits to public libraries throughout Oregon.

Oregon’s Dino-Story started circulating in summer of 2022 and will visit more than 30 libraries in Oregon before the end of 2024. The interactive exhibit offered in English and Spanish uncovers the mysteries of Oregon in the age of the dinosaurs.

Native Innovation, an exhibit currently in development that will circulate around Oregon later in 2023, celebrates how indigenous knowledge, creativity, and ingenuity have been used to solve challenges for thousands of years. Representatives from five federally recognized tribes are engaging in the exhibit review and development and/or are providing artifacts for display in the exhibit.

School of Global Languages and Studies

In 2021 the UO opened the School of Global Studies and Languages within the College of Arts and Sciences. The school’s premise is based on the idea that the opportunities of the 21st century are most accessible through the skills and knowledge of diverse languages, histories, cultures, and traditions. In order to address the cross-cultural challenges our global community is facing, such as climate change, poverty, and racial and gender inequality, the curriculum is designed to give students a broad and diverse education and is paired with hands-on experiences to prepare students to be leaders who can address the world’s most complex challenges.

The school offers 27 majors, minors, master’s and PhD programs taught by 100 core faculty members. Students graduate with the skills necessary for careers in the global sector. Professional concentration areas include environmental justice and resilience, diplomacy, peace, and conflict studies, business, trade, and tourism, law and human rights, and global health.

Pending state capital construction funding, historic Friendly Hall will be renovated to house the School of Global Studies and Languages in one central campus building, and will include the Northwest Indigenous Language Institute and the UO Chinese Flagship Program.
Making Oregon History Accessible to All

Museums, libraries, and archives in every state hold nationally significant collections that document our country's history and culture. The NEH offers critical support for these institutions so that their collections are preserved for the future and made accessible now.

The **Oregon Digital Newspaper Program** is an initiative to digitize historic Oregon newspaper content and make it freely available to the public through an online database. This full-text searchable database contains over 2 million pages from Oregon newspapers dated 1846–2022. New titles are continually added, including UO’s own student newspaper, the *Oregon Daily Emerald*, in 2022.

The Oregon Digital Newspaper Program was started under grant funding from the NEH, Library of Congress, and matching grants totaling $145,000 from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and Oregon Heritage Commission through the Oregon Cultural Trust.

In 2022, the Oregon Digital Newspaper Program uploaded 112,752 pages of newspapers to the website. These pages came from current and historic newspapers all around Oregon. Some of the new historic newspapers are shown below.

1. Hillsboro Argus
2. Klamath Republican
3. Talent News (Medford)
4. Ashland Tidings
5. Jacksonville Post
6. Rogue River Courier (Grants Pass)
7. Grants Pass Daily Courier
8. Vernonia Eagle
10. The Scio Tribune
11. Camp Adair Sentry
12. Coquille Sentinel
13. Cottage Grove Sentinel
14. The Record Courier (Baker City)
15. Hood River Glacier
In February, six UO faculty members were selected for Fulbright Scholars awards, helping the UO earn recognition as a top Fulbright producing institution from the US. Four of the six Fulbright Scholar recipients have accepted placements for 2022–23:

Allen Malony, professor, computer science, University of Helsinki in Finland

Jean Kjellstrand, assistant professor, family and human services, University of Helsinki in Finland

Julie Weise, associate professor, history, Universite d’Aix-Marseille II in France

Daniel Wojcik, professor, English and religious studies, University of Szeged in Hungary

Two other faculty members were offered fellowships but were unable to accept them.

The University of Oregon has a long history with the Fulbright program, supported by the Division of Global Engagement. Since 1950, the UO has produced 313 Fulbright scholars and 281 Fulbright students, while accepting 193 Fulbright visiting scholars and 109 visiting Fulbright students.

The Fulbright program is the US government’s flagship international educational exchange program. It is also among the largest and most diverse exchange programs in the world. Since its inception in 1946, more than 400,000 participants from all backgrounds and fields—including recent university graduates, teachers, scientists, researchers, artists and others from the US and more than 160 other countries—have participated in the Fulbright program.

Fulbright alumni have returned to their home countries to contribute to their communities thanks to an expanded worldview, appreciation for their host country and its people, and a larger network of colleagues and friends.

According to the US Dept of State, the UO is a Top Fulbright Producing Institution for the 2022–23 Academic Year.