December 19, 2023

Dear professor/instructor:

We’d like to share information about University Day at the Capitol, a lobby day involving student, alumni, faculty, and staff leaders from Oregon’s seven public universities taking in Salem taking place on Thursday, February 8. We believe this is a valuable educational experience for your students who may miss your class on this day. Advocacy from students is not only an important experience in the democratic process, but it also has real impacts on college affordability, which services are funded for students, and the overall financial position of the University of Oregon and Oregon’s public universities.

The primary objectives of Oregon’s seven public universities during the 2024 Oregon legislative session are to secure increased funding from the state for all public universities in Oregon, fight to increase support for wraparound services for students, and increase need based financial aid for Oregon students.

Students advocating on behalf of UO is beneficial for the institution and for the student. When students take time to meet with legislators and other key stakeholders, they gain and apply real-world skills and knowledge, including diplomacy, negotiation, and government and democratic processes.

From the perspective of the Office of Government and Community Relations at the UO, we know lawmakers who determine our funding allocation from the state find the stories and requests of current students compelling and persuasive, more so than when hearing from our administrative leaders. The presence of UO students in the Capitol reflects well with legislators and shows first-hand how increased funding will impact student success, research, and the State of Oregon for years to come.

We hope you will consider the absence of these students from of your class on February 8 as a worthwhile educational opportunity and a benefit to our university community. We are glad to work with you after the event to verify their participation. To verify, please contact Joe Erickson, director of advocacy and policy, at jericks2@uoregon.edu.

Thank you for all you do to educate and support UO students. Please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Trent Lutz               Jenna Adams-Kalloch               Joe Erickson
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