THE DIFFERENCE DUCKS MAKE  
IN SENATE DISTRICT 8 | 2024

To learn more about the UO’s impact, contact us at gcr@uoregon.edu or visit gcr.uoregon.edu/oregon-impact

* UO’s program that ensures academically-qualified Pell Grant-eligible Oregonians will have their tuition and fees paid through a combination of federal, state and university funds.

** The Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) is Oregon’s largest state-funded, need-based grant program for college students.

The UO is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This publication will be made available in accessible formats upon request.
UO in Senate District 8

These are just a few examples of the many ways UO students, researchers, and programs contribute to the State of Oregon. Learn more at gcr.uoregon.edu.

A New Approach for Improving the Behavioral Health and Well Being of Children

The **Ballmer Institute for Children’s Behavioral Health**, located in the UO’s new NE Portland campus, is creating a new profession – the child behavioral health specialist – that only requires an undergraduate degree to deliver behavioral health services in schools, the healthcare system, and other community settings. The program emphasizes training in the early identification of behavioral health concerns and delivery of interventions that can prevent the onset of mental health problems in young people. The program prioritizes the needs of youth who have been historically or persistently underserved and will be shaped by the input of community stakeholders. The first cohort of child behavioral health specialists will graduate in 2026.

Addressing Oregon’s Housing and Homelessness Priorities

As state leaders address the housing and homelessness crisis in Oregon, research conducted by faculty and students with UO’s **Institute for Policy Research and Engagement** (IPRE) informs state agencies and local government about land use regulations and housing policy. Recently, IPRE completed a Barriers to Housing Production research report for the Department of Land Conversation and Development, and worked with Lane County to produce the McKenzie Housing Recovery Plan in the aftermath of the 2020 Labor Day Fires. IPRE is currently working with TallWood Design Institute on a federally-funded project to explore harnessing mass timber technology to build housing.

Meeting Industry Workforce Needs

Every year the **Knight Campus Graduate Internship Program (KCGIP)** enrolls 80-100 students pursuing master’s degrees in focus areas of semiconductors, optics, polymers, sensors and genomics. Students are placed in paid internships at companies in Oregon and beyond. 90% of internship graduates are employed within their field in three months, and companies benefit from skilled scientists with real-world experience.

With support from the state through a Workforce Ready Grant, KCGIP is expanding the Oregon Pathways to Industrial Research Careers, an NSF grant-funded program that supports Pell grant-eligible students as they move through community college and the UO to high-wage science and engineering careers. Students start at Central Oregon, Lane, and Umpqua CCs and transfer to UO to earn physics, chemistry, or biochemistry degrees, and then pursue an industry-focused master’s degree through the KCGIP.