

Public and Government Affairs Update

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mayors honor UO; Eugene council passes proclamation honoring Ducks



Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy poses with the Rose Bowl trophy with acting UO Provost and Senior Vice President Lorraine Davis and Athletic Director Rob Mullens

The UO was recognized twice in early January by the City of Eugene for the football team's victory in the Rose Bowl and for the university's academic accomplishments and contributions to the region's economy.

At her January 5 State of the City address, Mayor Kitty Piercy commented at length about the university in celebrating the Rose Bowl victory. "We value our town-and-gown partnership with the University of Oregon, and are pleased with its academic success and economic and cultural contributions to the Eugene community," said the mayor.

At the January 9 meeting of the Eugene City Council, Mayor Piercy read a proclamation honoring the Ducks for their Rose Bowl victory, and city councilors and staff had an opportunity to admire the Rose Bowl trophy.

Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg at the January 11 Springfield State of the City address also commended the UO,

and commented on the new partnership between the city and the UO's Sustainable City Year Program.

STATE RELATIONS

OEIB seeks public input on next steps; State Board sets course for president hiring

The Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) will hold seven community meetings across the state later this month to discuss the next steps toward improving student success in Oregon's public education system, from prekindergarten through to college and career readiness.

Thousands of individuals have already participated in surveys, offered ideas in public testimony, and met with representatives of the governor's office around the state. Now local students, educators, parents, and community members are invited to the meetings to share their ideas on supporting student learning.

Each of the seven meetings will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. After a brief presentation on the Oregon Education Investment Board's proposals, most of the time is reserved for participants to discuss and share their thoughts. The meeting for Lane County will be held in Eugene at the following location and time:

**Center for Meeting and Learning
Room 104
Lane Community College
4000 East 30th Avenue
Thursday, January 26, 6:30 p.m.**

The OEIB is now recruiting candidates for the position of chief education officer, with the goal of making a hire by April 2012. Greenwood/Asher & Associates, a firm with experience in education executive search efforts, is working with the board.

The OEIB unanimously approved the job description in December 2011, after public testimony and other outreach efforts.

Also this month, Allyn Ford, State Board of Higher Education member and chair of the UO presidential search committee, gave a brief report at the January board meeting that preparations and planning are well under way for the university presidential search. The board identified an ambitious goal of hiring a new president by summer 2012.

STATE RELATIONS

Area legislators to hold town hall on campus today

A group of Eugene-Springfield area state legislators will hold a town hall event on campus this evening to discuss issues of importance to students, faculty, and staff in preparation for the February 2012 legislative session. State Senator Lee

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For more information, please contact Jared Mason-Gere at 541-346-5381 or jaredm@uoregon.edu. If you are interested in inviting government officials to a University of Oregon event, please contact us first at 541-346-5020 or at gcr@uoregon.edu. We can help!

Beyer (D-Springfield) as well as State Representatives Phil Barnhart (D-Central Lane and Linn Counties), Terry Beyer (D-Springfield) and Val Hoyle (D-West Eugene) will be at the event, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. today, January 17, in 115 Lawrence Hall.

The event is open to the public. Among topics likely to be discussed will be the state's tight budget and implications for state agencies and higher education. In addition, policy developments continue to move forward that would lead to institutional governing boards at the university level for the UO, Portland State, and other interested universities.

FEDERAL RELATIONS

Oregon universities receive research grant through OTREC

The Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium (OTREC) will administer a \$3.5 million grant announced this week to a coalition of universities including the University of Oregon, Portland State University, and the Oregon Institute of Technology. The grant will fund research and education on sustainable transportation.

The grant competition challenged university transportation center leaders to demonstrate their ability and experience to produce the country's best transportation research and educational programs.

"The U.S. Department of Transportation has recognized the incredible work being done by this University Transportation Center (UTC)," said Congressman Peter DeFazio. "In 2005, I designated funds in SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users), a federal surface transportation bill, to create this UTC. Since then, this UTC has been on the cutting edge of transportation innovation and advanced research. This grant will

continue the UTC's work to improve the transportation infrastructure which is vital to our economic competitiveness here in Oregon and across the country."

The grant ensures that Oregon research will continue to guide national transportation decisions, said U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley: "OTREC is an organization that is doing great work around regional planning and creating a vision for our transportation infrastructure's future. This grant will help OTREC continue their important work around livability, environmental sustainability, and safety. I am excited to see the research put forth by the consortium."

Research and educational programs under the grant will focus on improving health and safety, increasing efficiency of cycling, walking, and transit, making the most of performance measures, and integrating multimodal transportation with land use, among other projects.

FEDERAL RELATIONS

Congress reaches agreement on omnibus bill; Pell Grant award maintained, while eligibility is adjusted

The House and Senate have reached an agreement on fiscal year 2012 funding for the U.S. Department of Education as part of an omnibus spending bill passed on the December 16 deadline for passage.

Both the House and Senate agreed to maintain the current maximum Pell Grant of \$5,550 for 2012-13, but changed some of the eligibility rules. Those changes include eligibility reduced from eighteen semesters to twelve, or a maximum of six years; the elimination of six-month grace periods, so student loan interest accrues immediately upon graduation for loans made after July 1, 2012; and that Pell Grants may only be given to students with high school diplomas or a GED.

STATE RELATIONS

Rose Bowl win helps elected officials win bets

Oregon and Eugene elected officials are reveling in their winnings after the Ducks Rose Bowl win netted them loot from their Wisconsin counterparts. Keeping with an ongoing tradition of public wagers, Governor John Kitzhaber, Congressman Peter DeFazio, and Mayor Kitty Piercy all made bets on the outcome of the Rose Bowl with fellow elected officials from Wisconsin.

Kitzhaber bet with Wisconsin governor Scott Walker, offering a selection of Oregon beer from throughout the state, as well as Kettle Chips, hazelnuts, and Oregon smoked salmon. Since Oregon won the game, Walker sent Kitzhaber a package including Wisconsin cheese, Leinenkugel's beer, Andes mints, and Blushing Rose wine.

Congressman DeFazio bet with Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin). Their bet also centered around beer and cheese from their respective states. DeFazio will receive bratwurst from Milwaukee as well.

Eugene mayor Kitty Piercy took a different approach with Madison mayor Paul Soglin. Piercy and Soglin staked \$500 contributions to the Habitat for Humanity in each other's hometown. Mayor Soglin will send \$500 of personal funds to purchase tools for the Springfield-Eugene Habitat for Humanity.



Former State Senator Suzanne Bonamici

STATE RELATIONS

Bonamici resigns state seat for congressional race; Steiner Hayward appointed

To focus on the special election for the now-open congressional seat in Oregon's First Congressional District, for which she is running, State Senator Suzanne Bonamici (D-Beaverton) resigned her seat in December. Bonamici, an alum of UO's School of Journalism and Communication and School of Law, cited a desire to ensure her district had strong representation going into the February legislative session.

In December, the boards of commissioners for Multnomah and Washington counties voted to appoint Dr. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward to the senate vacancy created by Bonamici's resignation. Because the senate seat encompasses portions of both counties, each board had a say in the appointment; because Washington

County makes up a larger percentage of the district, the Washington County board vote had more influence in the outcome.

Dr. Steiner Hayward is a family practice physician and associate professor at Oregon Health and Science University. She is a graduate of the University of Chicago and University of Massachusetts Medical School. She was sworn in by Governor John Kitzhaber on January 5.



State Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward



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