PRESERVING CULTURE, LANGUAGE, AND HISTORY FOR ALL OREGONIANS: HOW 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.

$2.9M IN ACTIVE NEH AWARDS AT UO

CONSISTENTLY RANKED IN THE TOP 20 NATIONALLY FOR NON-STEM FEDERAL HUMANITIES EXPENDITURES

BRINGING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE COURSES ONLINE

The Northwest Indigenous Language Institute (NILI) at the UO began in the 1990s to help with Indigenous language revitalization in the Pacific Northwest by training tribal members in language instruction. What began as a two-week summer institute developed in collaboration with tribal members has expanded into a year-round program that has had a profound effect both on tribal communities and the university itself.

Thanks to a 2020 pandemic relief grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, NILI created a series of online courses that attracted participants from around the world, helping to foster a global community of people devoted to language revitalization.

Since its inception, NILI has helped bridge the longstanding divides between academia and Indigenous people. The NEH’s support has furthered this process. For example, NILI has been able to develop new online courses in conjunction with Indigenous language experts because NEH funding gave NILI the financial means to compensate them. In addition, the national recognition that comes with an NEH grant has given the program a level of prestige that helps collaborators show their tribal governments that the work of language revitalization is important and that it should be a priority.

PROVIDING WORLD LANGUAGE EDUCATION

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 broader community with partnerships in Eugene-4J School District, Portland Public Schools, and Lane Community College. Center efforts integrate innovative technology and language learning to support 21st Century Global Readiness and immersion for K-16 students during, and after, school.
PROVIDING CONNECTIONS TO MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES

Using a $93,000 CARES Act grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, the UO’s Museum of Natural and Cultural History helped address some of the emerging concerns over education equity during the pandemic through a new educational outreach project.

In 2020, the museum developed and distributed more than 25,000 culture-focused activity kits to families in every corner of the state. The project supports learning and social connection among students who are isolated from peers and traditional learning spaces due to COVID-19.

Known as Museum Connection Kits – Inspiring Stewardship for our Collective, Past, Present and Future, the project emphasized service to children who are without internet access while also serving those who receive online instruction but lack opportunities for guided, hands-on learning.

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 National Endowment for the Humanities 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 a keyword-searchable online database.

This full-text searchable database contains almost 2 million pages from Oregon newspapers dated 1846–2021. New titles are continually added.

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 2021, the Oregon Digital Newspaper Program uploaded 80,013 pages of Oregon newspapers to the website. These 80,000 pages came from currently publishing and historic newspapers all around Oregon. Some of the new historic newspapers include:

- Forest Grove Independent
- Washington County Hatchet
- Washington County News
- Forest Grove Press
- Forest Grove Express
- Mosier Bulletin
- East Oregonian
- Beaverton Review
- Beaverton Enterprise
- Eugene Weekly Guard and Twice a Week Guard
- Nyssa Gate City Journal
- Coquille Valley Sentinel
- The Grantonian
- Hood River Glacier
- Bandon Recorder
- The Clackamas Print / the Cougar Print / The Print