

Oregon Council of Presidents



EASTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY



OHSU

Oregon TECH



Oregon State
University



Portland
State
UNIVERSITY



Southern
OREGON
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON



Western Oregon
UNIVERSITY

March 19, 2020

Oregon Congressional Delegation
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Oregon Delegation:

We write to you to request financial support from Congress for higher education, including emergency funding for pressing financial challenges faced by students and institutions in response to the disruption caused by COVID-19.

We ask Congress for assistance to support vulnerable students whose livelihoods, health and families are suddenly imperiled. And, as some of the largest employers in the state and as economic engines of rural and urban communities, our institutions need support to stay operational and prepared to help our nation rebuild from this crisis. To these ends, our key priorities for emergency supplemental funding and support are:

1. **Protecting students from student aid disruptions:** Regulatory and enforcement relief will be critical to ensure students retain their financial aid support, as enrollment, work status and other conditions change.
2. **Smoothing financial disruptions to tuition-dependent public universities:** Emergency stop-gap funding to institutions to help maintain operations through remote learning and work is critical to offset potentially unprecedented tuition, fee and auxiliary service losses.

In the last week, Oregon's public universities took immediate and unprecedented steps to respond to the imminent threat facing our communities. We moved rapidly to protect over 90,000 students and tens of thousands of employees and limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus across our communities. Simultaneously, we identified new ways to deliver the courses our students need to achieve their academic goals.

We are weathering the immediate crisis to prioritize public and individual health and safety while maintaining our university operations and employment commitments. As we move into spring quarter and beyond, we are facing significant losses in revenue and new costs. Maintaining operational capacity and employment for education and research will be impossible without external support and assistance.

Given long-time retrenchment of state funding to public universities, our institutions are highly tuition-dependent and face significant short- and long-term financial impacts from COVID-19, especially as international and out-of-state enrollment declines. Absent temporary support, we would have to look to tuition-based revenue and widespread employee layoffs are inevitable.

Now more than ever, we Oregonians are deeply grateful for your leadership and representation in Washington, D.C. As you help lead the federal response, we urge you to continue to prioritize student aid and plan for emergency stop-gap funding to cushion tuition, fee and other revenue losses.

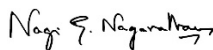
We stand at the ready to engage in any way necessary to promote the well-being of our communities and to protect and preserve the academic institutions of our state on behalf of our students and our colleagues.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of our universities and our citizens across Oregon.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Insko
President
Eastern Oregon University



Nagi Naganathan
President
Oregon Institute of Technology



Edward Ray
President
Oregon State University



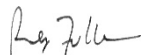
Stephen Percy
Interim President
Portland State University



Linda Schott
President
Southern Oregon University



Michael Schill
President
University of Oregon



Rex Fuller
President
Western Oregon University



Danny Jacobs
President
Oregon Health & Science University

Cc: Governor Kate Brown

Sent via email to Washington, D.C. and mail to Oregon offices