



# Public and Government Affairs Update



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## FEDERAL RELATIONS

### **UO urges passage of America COMPETES Act**

The University of Oregon has called on U.S. Senate leadership to pass critical legislation designed to increase the nation’s global competitiveness and innovation.

In a letter prepared by the Association of American Universities, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and the Task Force on American Innovation, the university asked senators to pass the

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## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### **Tykeson, McDonald, Eliot honored for distinguished service**

On October 13<sup>th</sup> the university honored three alumni with the 2010 Distinguished Service Awards at an evening celebration and reception in the Wayne Morse Commons at the Knight Law Center.

Jan Eliot, Terry McDonald, and Don Tykeson each received the awards, which are the highest honor bestowed by the University of Oregon for service to the region and the community.

Jan Eliot, a 1978 University of Oregon

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## STATE RELATIONS

### **President Lariviere discusses New Partnership with education workgroup**

University of Oregon President Richard Lariviere led off the fall meeting of the Legislature’s Higher Education Workgroup on October 1 with an in depth presentation about the university’s New Partnership proposal.

Lariviere began his presentation by explaining the current crisis in higher education funding and the impact it has on the ability of lower income and middle class families to access higher education.

He went on to outline the role higher education has in allowing students to reach their potential and access careers and lives that otherwise would be out of reach. He also discussed the impacts an affordable, first rate education has on the Oregon economy and

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*For more information about this newsletter, please contact Jared Mason-Gere at (541) 346-5381 or [jaredm@uoregon.edu](mailto:jaredm@uoregon.edu). If you are interested in inviting government officials to a UO event, please contact us first at 346-5020 or [gcr@uoregon.edu](mailto:gcr@uoregon.edu). We can help!*

## PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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FEDERAL RELATIONS

**Governor, Oregon members support UO’s Watzek House**

The University of Oregon will appear before the National Park System Advisory Board Landmarks Committee in early November to make the case for the [Watzek House](#) to become a [National Historic Landmark](#).

UO Professor Robert Melnick, an expert in historic preservation, will present the nomination to the committee at its fall meeting in Washington, D.C.

Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, the Watzek House is located in southwest Portland and is widely recognized as one of the most important residential buildings in the Pacific Northwest. National Historic Landmark status is a designation made by the US Secretary of the Interior when a historic site or building possesses “exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States”.

The Watzek House’s nomination to become Oregon’s sixteenth national historic landmark has drawn support from many, including Oregon policy makers. Governor Ted Kulongoski endorsed the nomination in a letter. Members of the Oregon Congressional delegation, led by Congressman David Wu (D-Oregon) whose congressional district includes the proposed landmark, also wrote the National Historic Landmarks Program to support the nomination.

If approved, the Watzek House will join Oregon landmarks like Timberline Lodge and Kam Wah Chang. The University of Oregon’s first academic buildings, Deady and Villard Hall, are also listed as national historic landmarks.



STATE RELATIONS

**Confucius Institute opens on campus with encouragement from Legislature**

The University of Oregon improved its ability to serve international students from China and host Chinese cultural with the establishment of a new program. On October 1, the Confucius Institute for Global China Studies celebrated its grand opening with a reception, formal dinner, and Chinese Kunqu Opera.

Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy joined UO President Richard Lariviere and Chinese dignitaries in offering congratulatory comments at the inaugural ceremony.

Senator Chris Edwards (D-Eugene), chief sponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 50

encouraging the establishment of Confucius Classrooms in Oregon public schools, and a member of the legislature’s Fujian Sister State interim committee, participated in the inaugural events as well.

The institute formed as a partnership between the University of Oregon, the Chinese Language Council, and the East China Normal University in Shanghai.

The UO’s Confucius Institute joins a network of almost 320 such organizations worldwide, including more than fifty at U.S. universities.

The institute will enhance opportunities for the UO to serve increasing numbers of Chinese students.

The UO currently has more than 400 international students from China—double the number from any other country.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**LTD seeks input on UO bus station redesign**

University of Oregon faculty, students, and staff, as well as neighboring property owners and tenants, gathered at the Wesley Center on October 12 to advise Lane Transit District (LTD) officials on how the west campus bus station could be improved.



The transit district, with whom the university contracts to provide transportation services for university students and employees, plans an overhaul of the facilities along Kincaid Street to ensure they will provide quality service in an efficient manner for many years.

While the construction of remodeled or newly built facilities will not occur until 2011 or later dependent upon securing funding, LTD leadership hope to gather input and select plans for upgrades this fall. They then will seek funding to allow the construction to begin.

Among planned improvements are an increased number of stops, more bicycle parking, and additional shelter space for passengers.

STATE RELATIONS

**Sunny outlook for research facilities as legislators tour labs**

State and local elected officials were on campus Friday, October 15 to tour the SuNRISE (Support Network for Research and Innovation in Solar Energy) lab at the university’s Lokey Laboratories. Legislators from up and down the I-5 corridor joined local officials from the greater Eugene-Springfield area to learn how the signature research facility of

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FEDERAL RELATIONS

**DeFazio on campus for Project Trek**

Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Oregon) was on campus earlier this month to meet with UO faculty members Steve Fickas and McKay Sohlberg.



Among several initiatives, Fickas and Sohlberg manage a research project known as Project Trek that involves investigating how people with cognitive impairments can best access mass transit.

Congressman DeFazio requested inclusion of this research project in the 2005 Surface Transportation authorization. The project has identified supportive queues and prompts that enable individuals with cognitive impairments, like short term memory loss, to use transit and para-transit services.

DeFazio earned his master’s degree from the University of Oregon. His committee assignments include the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where he chairs the subcommittee on highways and transit.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**Benefit for Pakistani flood victims takes place Nov. 2 and 3**

The University of Oregon is teaming up with St. Vincent de Paul on Nov. 2 and Nov. 3 to collect outerwear items for people in Pakistan affected by the recent devastating flooding. Following a similar humanitarian effort five years ago when a powerful earthquake hit the region, the Eugene/Springfield community is encouraged to participate in “Parkas for Pakistan.”

Spearheaded by UO international relations professor and Pakistan expert Anita Weiss, the UO will host two days of collection of much-needed items. Jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, warm pants, blankets, sleeping bags and plastic sheeting material that are collected will be sent to Pakistan to benefit Pakistanis and support their recovery efforts.

Tuesday, Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. donations will be accepted at the UO Athletics Department Moshofsky Center on Leo Harris Parkway. Wednesday, Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to tipoff of the UO women’s basketball at approximately 7 p.m., donations will be accepted on campus at University Street near Mac Court. Everyone who donates items can receive a voucher for free admission to the UO women’s basketball game vs. Willamette University, (Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.) in appreciation for the donation.

The collaboration between St. Vincent de Paul and the university is being coordinated by UO Government and Community Relations staff. For more information, contact Greg Rikhoff, director of community relations, at [grikhoff@uoregon.edu](mailto:grikhoff@uoregon.edu) or 541-346-2402.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**University hosts Oregon League of Minority Voters**

The university hosted the inaugural Oregon League of Minority Voters “State of Civil Rights – Oregon” luncheon on October 14.

The luncheon included a gubernatorial candidate forum, speeches from civil rights leaders, and a proclamation naming October 14 Civil Rights Day in Oregon.

Gubernatorial candidate John Kitzhaber, Chris Love Dudley, spouse of gubernatorial candidate Chris Dudley, Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, State Representative Lew Frederick (D-Portland), Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, and Eugene School District Superintendent George Russell were among the dignitaries present.

Attendees participated in a candid conversation with the leaders on hand about current civil rights challenges in Oregon and sought to capitalize on potential solutions to the economic crisis as an opportunity to address issues of inequality going into the future.



### An Election Reminder from the Office of the General Counsel

In light of the upcoming November elections, the University of Oregon Office of the General Counsel has prepared this information regarding election activity in the workplace.

Oregon law prohibits the use of public funds, equipment, and supplies to advocate for or against a ballot measure or candidate and restricts what public employees, including University of Oregon employees, may do in support of or opposition to a ballot measure or candidate.

#### Public employees on their work time may NOT:

- collect funds, distribute campaign materials, or prepare correspondence on behalf of a political committee, ballot measure, or candidate;
- produce, copy, or distribute documents that advocate for or against a ballot measure or a candidate;
- post website information, transmit emails, or make a presentation that advocates for or against a ballot measure or candidate;
- make outgoing calls to schedule or organize campaign events or other political activity;
- encourage others to volunteer for a political committee or efforts related to a candidate or ballot measure;
- place political posters in a public work space or facing out on doors or windows;

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### Get daily updates! Follow Government and Community Relations on Facebook

Tired of waiting an entire month to get your fix of the Government and Community Relations Department’s activities and updates on behalf of the university? Join your friends, neighbors and colleagues for as-it-happens information and news coverage of the important public policy actions affecting the University of Oregon.



Now more than ever, Government and Community Relations is hard at work to ensure that the UO remains accessible to students throughout Oregon as we help prepare our state’s

workforce of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/UOGCR> and “Like” us so you can keep informed, share your thoughts and feedback, and help spread the word about key UO initiatives.

After you “Like” us, make sure to suggest us to your friends. See you on [Facebook!](#)

### Cast your vote for the Duck

While election season is heating up in Oregon, another fierce campaign is underway.



The Oregon Duck is locked in a tight race with other Division I mascots for the title of Mascot of the Year in the Capitol One Mascot Bowl.

Each week, the Duck faces off with another prominent mascot. So far, the Duck has fared quite well, gaining the support of thousands of voters. But he needs your support to emerge victorious on Election Day. [Vote here](#) to show your support.



## Ballots arrive; election tips for 2010

Election ads dominate the airwaves, signs dot our lawns, and ballots have arrived. Here are some helpful hints for participating in this year’s election, Tuesday, November 2, 2010.

The registration deadline has passed, and ballots have been sent. All registered voters should have received theirs by October 19. If you have not yet received your ballot, contact your county election office. Lane County Elections is available at 541-682-4234 or visit election headquarters at 275 West 10th Avenue. Information about other county offices is available [HERE](#).

- All ballots must be turned in to Lane County Elections or dropped in an OFFICIAL drop box by 8pm on November 2.
- To ensure your mailed ballot arrives by election day, it must be mailed by Thursday, October 30.
- There is a white ballot drop box outside of the east wing, lower level of the EMU. For a list of all drop box locations, click [HERE](#).
- If you have previously registered to vote in the state of Oregon but have not registered at your current Lane County address, you may still vote. You may pick up a provisional ballot at Lane County Elections, 275 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to vote for statewide candidates.
- If you would like to vote in your home county, you must fill out a request for an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots may be requested by clicking [HERE](#).

Remember! The sooner you vote, the sooner you’ll stop receiving reminder phone calls and friendly visits at your door!

## Step up for UO. Become an advocate

UO advocates are hard at work to support higher education and the University of Oregon, and we need your help. In order to make sure elected leaders understand all that the University of Oregon contributes to our state, we draw on an extensive network of grassroots volunteer advocates. Faculty, staff, and students are invited join alumni and their family and friends to advocate for the university. [Sign up now](#).

By becoming a UO Advocate, you can help ensure that the University of Oregon’s voice is heard around our communities and in the halls of government — throughout Oregon, in the State Capitol, and in Washington, D.C. Simply fill in the registration form so that we can match your interests and expertise with our advocacy efforts. As soon as we receive your registration, you’ll become a member of our team. [Sign-up today!](#)

### Election Reminder

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distribute political flyers.

### Public employees MAY:

- use personal time, lunch hours, breaks, and days off for political activity;
- express personal political views;
- wear campaign buttons at work;
- provide balanced, objective information on ballot measures;
- impartially advise other public employees about possible effects of a ballot measure;
- use personal time and personal equipment to write letters in a personal capacity expressing an opinion on a ballot measure or candidate.



## **COMPETES**

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reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act in time for the president to sign the legislation into law this year.

The university joined with a long list of top tier research universities, industry leaders, and advocacy organizations to urge action on legislation considered vital not only to university and research funding, but also to the nation's economic recovery and long term prosperity.

The COMPETES (Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science) Act supports innovation by increasing research investments, strengthening science and math education, and infrastructure to support research and development.

The bill will coordinate science, technology, engineering, and math education and connect students in these fields with research and internship opportunities. As well, the legislation develops innovation and competitiveness strategies and supports research parks.

Originally passed by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2007, the House of Representatives passed its reauthorization earlier this year, and this summer the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation passed the bill, sending it to the full Senate for a vote.

The Senate has yet to take action on the legislation or pending amendments from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources and Health, Education, Labor, and Pension.

With elections approaching and adjournment of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress around the corner, a speedy passage of the bill is imperative.

## **New Partnership**

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the opportunities lost to the state when Oregonians are educated out of state.

Lariviere was joined in his presentation by Jay Namyet, Chief Investment Officer at the University of Oregon Foundation, and John Chalmers, Abbott Keller Distinguished Research Scholar and associate professor of finance and department head at the University. Together they explained details about the proposed public university endowment aspects that would ensure stable funding for the university.

Workgroup members asked a variety of questions and expressed appreciation for Lariviere's willingness to bring forward such a bold proposal.

Senator Chris Edwards (D-Eugene) said he is working to have legislation drafted that would allow the legislature's consideration of the proposal in the 2011 Legislative Session.

Senator Mark Hass (D-Beaverton), co-chair of the workgroup, called the New Partnership proposal "one of the most significant proposals in higher education" brought to the legislature in decades.

For full media coverage of the New Partnership or to read the proposal, visit

<http://newpartnership.uoregon.edu/>



**Distinguished Service**

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graduate, is the writer and artist of the internationally syndicated cartoon Stone Soup.

Terry McDonald, a 1971 UO, is executive director of the St. Vincent De Paul Society of Lane County. St. Vincent De Paul is Lane County’s largest nonprofit human services organization, helping over 84,000 people annually.

Donald Tykeson, a 1951 UO graduate, is a pioneer in the cable television industry. He directs the Tykeson Family Charitable Trust that supports health-care, medical research, education and art initiatives.

State and local dignitaries joined faculty, staff, and students to honor these distinguished alumni.

STATE RELATIONS

**Renovation funding requested**

Earlier this summer, the Oregon University System approved the University of Oregon’s requests for capital construction funding for the 2011-2013 biennium. The requests are under consideration by the Department of Administrative Services and the Governor’s office. Once approved, the projects will be part of the Governor’s capital construction request to the Legislature.

Chapman Hall and the Clark Honors College, Straub Hall, and Condon Hall all have requested funding for deferred maintenance, primarily for classroom remodeling and replacing outdated heating systems; the construction of a new Architecture and Allied Arts building; the EMU and Student Recreation Center would better serve students if renovated and expanded; and the Museum of Natural and Cultural History is due for its third phase of construction.

**SuNRISE**

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Oregon BEST is driving economic development in Oregon.

Guests on the tour were shown the equipment that allows private and public sector researchers to develop new solar cell technologies and learned how the shared-user lab facilitates the development of cutting edge technologies and processes.



Legislative guests included Rep. Peter Buckley, (D-Ashland), co-chair of the budget writing Ways and Means

Committee, Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene), who serves on the Senate Commerce and Workforce Development Committee, and Rep. Phil Barnhart, (D-Central Lane and Linn Counties) Chair of the House Revenue Committee, as well as local staff for US Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and Congressman Peter DeFazio.

The SuNRISE lab was coordinated in part by Oregon BEST (Built Environment & Sustainable Technologies) Center, an independent, nonprofit organization established by the Oregon Legislature. Oregon BEST focuses on growing shared-user networks, such as SuNRISE, in the areas of sustainable built environment products and services and renewable energy generation. By bringing university researchers together in collaboration with industry, the Oregon BEST programs housed at the University of Oregon foster green energy development and Oregon job development for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.