



UNIVERSITY  
OF OREGON

# Federal Budget Priorities Opportunities for Oregon FY15

**Request to Congress:** The Administration's FY15 budget includes programs of special significance to Oregon's safety, welfare, and well-being. Those budget activities are **Earthquake Early Warning** (US Geological Survey), **special education research** (US Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences), and university partnerships with the US Department of Energy's **National Energy Technology Laboratory—Albany, Oregon**.

## Earthquake Early Warning

(US Geological Survey—Earthquake Hazards Program)

**UO Request:** \$16.1 million and report language

The University of Oregon joins with other West Coast research institutions in seeking **\$16.1 million** to build, operate, and maintain a public earthquake early warning system on the West Coast with real-time sensors and communications technologies. In addition, UO seeks **report language that encourages planning** for the Cascadia subduction zone to ensure the maximum effectiveness of earthquake early warning. The Cascadia fault line is the type of fault most likely to spur category 9 earthquakes and associated tsunamis because of its ocean location.

The University of Oregon and the University of Washington currently provide seismic monitoring through the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network. The University of Oregon, through faculty and associated technicians, is responsible for maintaining and monitoring stations located in Oregon. The Pacific Northwest Seismic Network locates more than 1,400 earthquakes per year greater than magnitude 1.0 in Washington and Oregon and thus provides an assessment of earthquake and volcanic risks.

The combination of funds for the planned earthquake early warning system and report language to encourage future planning for the Cascadia subduction zone are important steps to prepare for earthquake events and the tsunami that would likely follow.

## Special Education Research

(US Department of Education—Institute of Education Sciences)

**UO Request:** Report language

Our federal government's investment in education research—just as in medicine, energy and defense—provides the foundation of evidence upon which effective policies, practices, personnel training, and systems are based. The administration's FY15 budget includes more than an 8 percent increase in additional funding for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), bringing the total budget request to \$637 million but making no new investment in special education. No research competitions in special education are planned for FY14 and none have been held since FY13.

Over the last five years, the IES budget for general education research has grown by more than \$35 million. The budget for special education research has been reduced by almost 30 percent (\$20.5 million) to a proposed \$54 million.

Students with intellectual and other disabilities represent about 15 percent of our nation's children. While educational outcomes for students with disabilities have been slowly improving over the last two decades, they remain unacceptably far below expectations and well below those of the general student population, threatening the nation's commitment to individual independence and economic security.

Report language is needed to clarify the Institute of Education Science's commitment to and plans for special education research competitions.

## **National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL)—Albany, Oregon**

(US Department of Energy—Office of Fossil Energy)

**UO Request:** \$950,000 and report language

The National Energy Technology Laboratory, located in Albany, Oregon, began a variety of collaborative research projects with the UO and other Oregon universities, via contract, in summer 2013 following the development of a memorandum of understanding. There is a need for continued support in FY15 to further

enable university partnerships. Support may move pilot projects beyond the initial discovery phase in areas ranging from nanostructures to synthetic chemistry. NETL—Albany is the only remaining government-owned-and-operated US Department of Energy facility in the nation (others are operated by contractors).