



January 13, 2020

Dear professor:

I'd like to share information about University Lobby Day at the Capitol, a higher education lobby day organized by government relations staff from Oregon's seven public universities taking place Thursday, February 13. We believe this is a valuable educational experience for your students who may miss your class on this day. Advocacy from students is not only an important experience in the democratic process, but it also has real impacts on access, affordability, and excellence of the University of Oregon.

We recruit student leaders who have an interest and stake in advocating for increased funding for the UO and Oregon's post-secondary institutions. When students take time to go to Salem and lobby lawmakers and other key stakeholders, they gain and apply real-world skills and knowledge, including teamwork, diplomacy, negotiation, and government and democratic processes. At University Day they also experience the benefit of working in coalition with representatives of other public universities in Oregon.

From the perspective of the Office Government and Community Relations at the UO, we know that the lawmakers who determine our funding allocation from the state as well as bonding for capital construction projects find the stories and requests of current students deeply compelling and persuasive, more so than when hearing from our administrative leaders. The presence of UO students from every public higher education institution in the Capitol reflects well upon the university and confirms how increased funding will impact student success, research, and the State of Oregon for years to come.

We hope you will consider the absence of these students from your class on February 13 as a worthwhile educational opportunity and a benefit to our university community.

Thank you for all you do to educate and support UO students. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Libby Batlan'.

Libby Batlan
Associate Vice President
State and Community Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Hans Bernard'.

Hans Bernard
Assistant Vice President, State Affairs
Special Assistant to the President

Government and Community Relations
1292 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1292
T (541) 346-5020 | F (541) 346-2574 | www.uoregon.edu