

FOR RELEASE: July 30, 2009

Contact: Lisa Catto
cattol@wou.edu
503-838-8163

WOU special education professor appointed to statewide autism commission

MONMOUTH – Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski has appointed Mickey Pardew, Western Oregon University professor of special education, to the 13-person Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder. This commission is tasked with improving the services to those individuals and families experiencing Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Oregon.

After working with a legislative workgroup on ASD spearheaded by Representative Chris Edwards, Governor Kulongoski signed Executive Order 09-07 in March. This created the commission and directed them to design a 10-year strategic plan to improve services and address the issues and challenges faced by individuals living with ASD, and their families, in Oregon. In selecting members of the commission, Governor Kulongoski chose individuals who combined a record of leadership with an extensive experience working on pertinent issues and demonstrated passion to produce meaningful results for Oregonians.

“I am excited about this opportunity to serve Oregon and represent higher education on the commission,” said Pardew. “It will further underscore the role WOU plays in defining what services to individuals with ASD will look like in the next decade.”

Pardew’s areas of expertise are early intervention/early childhood partnerships and collaboration and autism issues and strategies. She joined WOU’s faculty as an instructor in 1988, within the Special Education Division and was promoted to assistant research professor in 1991, where she worked with the Teaching Research Division. She became an assistant professor in 1995, where she began to coordinate the Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education teacher license and endorsement graduate program. She was promoted to associate professor in 1998 and she began serving as co-coordinator of WOU’s Special Educator Program. In 2005 she became a full professor, and she also works with the Oregon State University Rural Links Project, where Pardew provides advisement and support for students entering WOU’s special education programs.

Prior to joining WOU, Pardew held positions focusing on child development, including her work as a child development specialist for the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Coordinated Child Care Council in Salem. She earned her bachelor’s in psychology from Elmira College, New York, in 1969 then went on to earn her master’s in counseling and guidance from the University of North Dakota in 1972. She completed her doctorate in education from Oregon State University in 1996.

The members of the commission are:

Marilyn Gense, Chair
Special Education Coordinator, Willamette Education Service District
Position: At-Large

Jean Rystrom, Vice Chair
Regional Practice Director of Pediatrics, Kaiser Permanente
Position: Insurance

Joyce Bernheim
Health Care Attorney
Position: Parent of a child

Gleason Eakin
Retired Educator, Administrator, and Founder of the Northwest Autism Foundation
Position: Advocacy Organization

Chris Edwards
Legislator
Position: State Representative

Kirby Erickson
Autism Specialist, Southern Oregon Education Service District
Position: Parent of an adult

Robert Nickel, M.D.
Developmental Pediatrician, Child Development and Rehabilitation Center, OHSU
Position: Medical Community

Michelle (Mickey) Pardew
Professor, Special Education Division at Western Oregon University
Position: Higher Education

Dora Raymaker
Writer, Researcher, Trainer
Position: Consumer

Eric Richards
Director of Operations for the Office of Student Learning and Partnerships, Oregon Department
of Education
Position: Oregon Department of Education

Clyde Saiki
Deputy Director, Oregon Department of Human Services
Position: Oregon Department of Human Services

Kristi Sandvik
Executive Director of Special Education Programs, Hillsboro School District
Position: Local Education

###

Interview contacts:

Mickey Pardew, professor, special education
503-838-8765 or pardewm@wou.edu

Hilda Rosselli, dean, College of Education
503-838-8371 or rossellh@wou.edu

Kathryn Weit, Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder
503-945-9943