MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the last year, higher education in Oregon has continued to undergo change with reforms in accountability for student success and the restructuring of institutional governance. Western Oregon University (Western) engaged in meaningful effort to substantiate our university resources for, and capacity to succeed as, an independent public university with our own institutional governing board according to the requirements of Senate Bill 270. In April 2014, the Oregon State Board of Higher Education unconditionally endorsed Western's request, displaying the board's confidence in our mission, strategies, and financial sustainability. The members of our new governing board were confirmed during the 2014 fall legislative session, after which we will provide the necessary preparation for them to assume their duties on July 1, 2015.

The Western Oregon University community - faculty and staff alike - believes in the power of education to improve individuals' lives, families and communities. We are as deeply committed to serving Oregon residents now as our founders were in 1856 when they established the first public university in the state. This commitment is evident in our new Applied Baccalaureate (AB) programs in specialties important to Oregon's economy, which serve working adults who have a terminal two-year degree but need to complete a four year baccalaureate degree to advance in their professional careers. For example, WOU offers AB programs in Information Systems, Computer Science and Economics for Oregon's business and technology professionals as well as Psychology and Gerontology for health and human services professionals. Other new degree programs and certificates reflect changing trends in our world, such as visual communication design (BA/BS), instructional design or geographic information science (certificates) which offer students critical training in the new and emerging technologies or early childhood studies (BA/BS) which offers specialized training for students interested in helping young children to learn. Western plans to continue its ongoing review and development of academic programs to attract, retain, and serve our students so that they may meet the current and future needs of Oregon.

Western serves primarily Oregon residents, with nearly 82% of our graduate and undergraduate students in fall 2013 coming from every county across the state. Although the Oregon legislature has reduced operational allocations to universities over the last decade, Western has worked diligently to manage institutional costs in order to help keep education affordable for and accessible to these students. We initiated and maintained a 'continuous improvement' philosophy to engage the campus-wide community in finding ways to work smarter, and as a result, continue to achieve our fiscal goals while providing more services to more students. In fact, Western has demonstrated one of the strongest fiscal positions within the Oregon University System over the past few years and is projected to maintain this through the current fiscal year and beyond.

The new year heralds a time of growth for Western, with the announcement of the groundbreaking for the new Richard Woodcock Education Center, planned to open fall 2016. The facility is named for Dr. Richard Woodcock, a former educational psychology professor and internationally-recognized expert on learning assessment, whose gift of $1.4 million makes the facility possible. This facility brings nearly 60,000 square feet of office, classroom, and support space that will enable the College of
Education to continue to provide new teachers to Oregon each year, professional developmental opportunities for existing teachers throughout the state, and educational reading specialists, technology integrationists, autism specialists to Oregon school districts.

Western has other notable accomplishments this last year. Faculty accomplishments go beyond the high-mentoring engagement with students in the classroom. They also provide service to the local and state communities through their involvement on various boards and directing students in service learning projects. Further, our faculty are professionally engaged through the publication of scholarly articles, books and creative works, involvement in professional organizations and active, ongoing applications for, or work under, external research grants. In fact, the average grant funding received per capita by the faculty at Western is the third highest of all Oregon public universities.

The last three years have seen a record number of graduates at Western. However, if analysts' projections are accurate that Oregon high schools will graduate fewer students over the next decade, then Western's thoughtful approach to academic programming, scholarly community of engaged faculty, institutional emphasis on learning and teaching, conservative approach to fiscal management and deeply committed community of professionals will all contribute to Western successfully navigating the unknown future.

With great pride in, and thanks to, the many individuals who have contributed to Western's success, and the success of our students,

Mark Weiss, President

During the past year, the WOU Foundation continued to experience an increase of philanthropic support thanks to the generosity of alumni, parents, friends, and others who support our mission in providing critical resources to support the university and our students. A few highlights from the past year include:

- Grand opening and ribbon cutting of the new DeVolder Family Science Center
- Total giving increased by 17% with the average gift increasing by nearly 35%
- The annual Wolves Athletic Auction generated nearly $60,000 in scholarship support for student-athletes
- Began a $3 million campaign to advance our College of Education through collaboration with a new facility and affordability by increasing financial aid support. In the first six months, 55 percent of the goal has been reached including full funding for the new Richard Woodcock Education Center and over $200,000 already committed for scholarships
- Support of $50,000 from the Maps Community Foundation to expand the Peer Mentorship program. The newly named Maps Peer Mentorship Program provides front line support and programming for students living on campus promoting mental, physical, and financial health leading to a stronger campus community.
- As part of the annual Competitive Grants Program through the WOU Foundation, the following programs received financial assistance: Abby's House, The American Sign Language studies program, The ASCD Student Chapter, The Associated Students of Western Oregon University, The Early Childhood Program, The English, Writing and Linguistics Department, The Gerontology Department and gerontology student groups, The Mathematics Department, Students from Dr. David Foster's "Psychology of Leadership" course, University Housing, and the WOU Softball team.
The Teaching Research Institute and College of Education received a $200,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Education to support Project High Five – Culture, Collaboration, Commitment, Communication and Community. The project is a collaborative endeavor between WOU, Central School District (CSD) 13J, the Ella Curran Food Bank, and the Oregon Child Development Coalition to develop a strong Professional Development School partnership program between CSD and WOU and will advance the ability of teachers to meet the needs of culturally and/or linguistically diverse students, which is a key component of Oregon's 40-40-20 goal.

WOU's new Elementary Mathematics Instructional Leader program (EMIL) received unanimous approval from the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) in March 2014, and will help meet needs for the Common Core State Standards and Practices for Mathematics (CCSSM). TSPC approved elementary mathematics specialization standards last spring and WOU’s new curriculum is the first Elementary Mathematics specialization program to be approved. The Elementary Mathematics specialization is similar to the Elementary Reading and Autism Spectrum Disorder specializations already established in elementary schools.

The Mathematics Department held its tenth annual Sonia Kovalevsky Math Day, which is designed to encourage young women to continue their study of mathematics. Participants come from regional high schools and as far away as Coos Bay and Newport. Since its inception at WOU, the number of participants has more than doubled to 14 teachers and more than 100 girls as WOU alumni who participated as undergraduates have started bringing groups of their own students to the event.

Western Oregon University completed extensive renovations to facilities for the Computer Science Division. WOU received a commitment of $300,000 from former Oregon State Senator Frank and Linda Morse, in honor of Dr. Edward B. Wright, and designated the renovated space as the Edward B. Wright Center for Computing Sciences. The generous gift from the Morses was used to establish a scholarship endowment in Wright’s honor for current and future students studying computer science, information systems or computer science/mathematics.

The U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women awarded $300,000 to the Teaching Research Institute to expand the campus collaboration on sexual violence prevention and response. The WOU Campus Against Sexual Assault program will include an expanded prevention and education program on sexual violence (offered through Abby’s House, the campus resource and referral center) for all students on campus, with particular emphasis on incoming first-year students. Furthermore, the continuing program will enhance sexual violence response services on campus through campus public safety and the office of
student conduct, as well as strengthen partnerships with local community agencies.

Western Oregon University’s Master of Arts in Interpreting Studies (MAIS) won the 2013 University Professional & Continuing Education Association (UPCEA) West Region Outstanding Credit Program Award, which recognizes outstanding professional and continuing education programs allowing students to earn academic credit. The award was presented at the UPCEA West Region Conference in Tucson, Arizona.

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs awarded the Teaching Research Institute a five-year, $10,500,000 grant to operate the National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NDCB). The center will serve as a national hub for professional development, resources, and information to serve children who are deaf-blind and their families, as well as educators and other professionals working with them.

WOU received a generous $1.4 million donation for a new education facility from former psychology professor and education leader Dr. Richard W. Woodcock. This is the third largest single donation in school history and will help create the Richard Woodcock Education Center - a 58,000 square foot facility scheduled to open in the fall of 2016.

The $18.6 million facility continues to expand the university’s academic footprint as part of its strategic plan to meet the growing needs of Oregonians and assist in the state’s 40-40-20 initiative for a better educated Oregon citizenry and improved economy.

Oregon Governor John A. Kitzhaber announced the designation of the Richard Woodcock Education Center, WOU’s new College of Education, as one of only two demonstration projects under Executive Order 12-16. This order promotes innovative use of wood products as a green building material, encourages innovative uses of wood products and increases markets for Oregon wood products. The new education building will feature creative usage of wood in both structural and aesthetic design and construction.

WOU was named a Military Friendly School for 2013 and 2014 by Victory Media. The recognition is based on an assessment of eleven factors such as the academic status of the institution, military support and veteran services on campus, veteran graduate rates; overall it acknowledges that WOU provides a supportive environment for military students.