



EASTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:
MONDAY MUSINGS

October 28, 2013

Colleagues,

Over the course of the next several months we have the opportunity to set the foundation and form the appropriate governance model for our University. This puts us and the three other regional and technical universities of the state in the “spotlight” with our legislators and appointed officials involved in post-secondary education.

This is an enormous opportunity, as it provides us with two platforms to present our University, the first being the question at hand: how should our and consequently the other three universities’ governance models be organized? In answering this question, we have the unique opportunity to present EOU in a manner that reinforces the essential and vital importance we play throughout our region and state in providing access to students, and by serving as an economic catalyst and being a cultural and civic nucleus for our communities. This time of discussion and focus further allows us to present a case, void of noise from the other larger institutions, on the fiscal structures and strains that are a result of the current “one size fits all approach.” We know, for example, that EOU serves a significant number, and in many cases, a higher percentage of total students than our peers, who are underserved, economically disadvantaged and first generation students. As a result, we also know additional services are needed and the popular ratios of success (i.e., four year graduation rates) are not the most relevant indicators of our success. As such, with the current focus of attention on our University, we have the opportunity to not only structure a governance model that is best suited to meet our needs; we also have the remarkable opportunity to present and fortify our importance to the state in meeting its overall objectives of 40-40-20 as well as many other state-wide goals and ambitions.

In the next several weeks we will be holding many forums on our potential governance structures. Tomorrow, Oct. 29 at 3 p.m. in Huber Auditorium will be a “University Hall” on this topic and future discussions are scheduled with the Faculty Senate, University Council, Budget and Planning, ASEOU and multiple meetings in communities throughout our region. At these forums, we will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the various governance models. In combination with these forums and through an online survey, I am seeking your feedback and ideas on how to best present EOU. Structuring our case to the state for increased support to implement a system that will amplify our abilities to meet the needs of our students and region also underlines these efforts. For more background on the governance discussion and to participate in the online survey, please visit www.eou.edu/governance.

I look forward to these discussions and your input.

The Star of Eastern Oregon University

This week's "Star of Eastern" is Business Professor Gary Keller. The following is an excerpt of a letter I received from Brian Harvey, Chief of Police for the City of La Grande:

I wanted to bring to your attention and commend one of your faculty members for their generous contributions to local and regional law enforcement. Dr. Gary Keller provided a leadership and management training for the La Grande Police Department, Union County Sheriff's Office and five other law enforcement agencies from our region.

Dr. Keller is an excellent presenter who clearly has thorough knowledge in leadership and management principles. He related very well to law enforcement members, who due to their experiences are often the most critical of students. Professor Keller effectively engaged his audience and established great credibility.

I have personally attended many management and leadership training through the years and found Dr. Keller's to be the best of them all. He received high compliments from the other attendees. I was impressed with his thorough knowledge, highly effective teaching methods and great choice of relevant resource materials. He is a gifted and passionate teacher.

Professor Keller is an excellent representative of Eastern Oregon University and I am proud to know he is a member of the faculty there. He generously donated his time to us for this training and I believe that speaks to his commitment to our community and region. We are very appreciative of him and again I wanted to bring his generous actions to your attention.

Sincerely,

Chief Brian Harvey

Thank you, Gary, for all that you do for our students and University, as it speaks volumes of the impact on our region.

KUDOS and Miscellaneous

Last week's colloquium featured Professors Steve Clements, Nancy Knowles, Tawnya Lubbes, as well as Heidi Harris "beaming in" from the University of Arkansas. As this was the first one I have been able to attend this academic year, I was reminded by the rich interaction these presentations provide between and among faculty, staff and students. I hope you are able to join future presentations, the next one being Nov. 14. See www.eou.edu/colloquia for more information.

Congratulations to our Head Volleyball Coach Kaki Morehead, who lead the team to victories over Warner Pacific and Concordia over the weekend and, in doing so, became all-time leaders in victories in volleyball.

Our men's and women's basketball teams were also victorious with impressive wins over New Hope Christian and our football team beat Montana Tech. Our women's soccer team endured two heartbreaking losses, but they are showing much improvement as evidenced by qualifying for post-season play for the first time since 2006.

I wish you all a very fruitful and productive week.

Respectfully,

Bob

Bob Davies
President