



EASTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:
MONDAY MUSINGS

January 6, 2014

Colleagues,

Welcome to the first day of winter term! I hope you all had an opportunity over the holiday break to spend time with family and friends.

As we begin 2014 and I reflect on the past year, it is clear we have achieved a great deal, and at the same time, we have much work ahead of us.

For example, as the year concluded Steve Adkison and I had the opportunity to meet officially with several commissioners of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities regarding our recent accreditation report. It is evident to us that the Commission is extremely impressed with many of the advances and strides we have made over the past five years since the conclusion of our last full accreditation cycle.

As I mentioned the details of the report previously, (read the summary and full report at www.eou.edu/accredit/accreditation-cycle), you know about the significant commendations EOU received due to your hard work and dedication to our students and mission.

Furthermore, over the break I received the official letter from the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) reaffirming our accreditation for the College of Business. In this report, too, EOU was commended for the work and actions of our faculty and staff in supporting the goals of our students and moving our institution forward in significant and varied ways to achieve our mission.

These peer review reports and in depth analysis of our University and progress are critical as they give us a perspective that is sometimes lost in our day-to-day work. At the same time, while it is good to have these affirmations, it is clear we have much work to do this year.

The issue of our governance model is still being shaped and formulated. Later this week at a meeting of the University Governance Committee of the State Board of Higher Education, we will continue to explore if a hybrid model for the

Technical and Regional Universities (TRUs) is viable. There are also other options I continue to investigate that will maintain our independence and decision-making authority over fundamental and mission-critical elements (i.e., our own accreditation, mission, shared governance, faculty and staff personnel policies, programmatic offerings, etc.)

During this term and for the rest of the year, we will continue to confront the fiscal stresses and strains of our University. We must do so in a way that is not only strategic in meeting the specific needs and demands of Eastern, but also in positioning us to meet the significant changes that are occurring in higher education at the macro level.

This includes, for example, the substantial manner in which the federal and state government is approaching higher education that will bring about far-reaching changes. In our own state, the implementation of the Higher Education Coordinating Council (HECC) and other state level administrative bodies and councils, and the advancement of new funding models and measures of accountability, will significantly alter the way we view our work and position our University for long-term success.

Interim OUS Chancellor Melody Rose and State Board Member Kirk Schueler will be on campus this Wednesday, Jan. 8, to discuss many of these changes, along with Eastern's role. They will be meeting with various shared governing boards and also hosting an open forum at 11 a.m. in Hoke 339 (an Infoline message will be forthcoming as a reminder).

Therefore, as we direct our efforts in moving our institution forward, it is important that we continually share ideas and thoughts. It is a very fluid environment with incredible twists and turns as each day I learn something new. At any time, if a thought or idea strikes you, please feel free to share it with me and I will continually update you as best I can as pieces become clearer.

While we cannot control all of the things that impact us, we do have control over some factors and those are what we must direct our attention to first. With your dedication, as proven by what we have accomplished already this year, we will be able to maneuver our University as best as possible.

I wish you all a very successful and fruitful winter term!

Star of Eastern Oregon University

At the end of last term, our faculty and staff donated 172 gifts for those in need. Heather Cashell led this effort with the assistance of Angie Adams, Bill Benson, Dan Cashen and Jeff Carman. Their efforts combined with all who participated is another exemplary way in which EOU proves it is an instrumental member of our community.

Miscellaneous

EOU was recently ranked the most affordable online university in Oregon!
www.eou.edu/news-press/most-affordable-in-oregon.

On Thursday, Jan. 9, EOU's colloquium will feature Jerry Isaak and his workshop on "Risky Business: Millennials, Social Media and Risk Management in Outdoor Education." The discussion begins at 4 p.m. in Ackerman Hall, Room 210. For details go to www.eou.edu/news-press/colloquium-isaak.

As it is the new year and resolutions have been made, to help with your "health related" goals, Professor Kelly Rice and her students have initiated a series of fitness classes exclusively for EOU faculty and staff. The classes are \$45 per term and meet twice a week. The classes are:

Circuit Weights

- Monday and Wednesday, 12:10-12:50 p.m.
- Monday and Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Location: Meet outside the Fitness Center

Yoga

- Monday and Thursday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Location: Zabel 108

If you are interested in joining one of the classes, please go to the Cashier's office and bring your receipt to the first class. Contact Kelly Rice at krice@eou.edu if you have any questions.

Our women's and men's basketball teams take on the College of Idaho Friday, Jan. 10, in Quinn Coliseum at 5:30 and 7 p.m. respectively. Come out and cheer for the Mountaineers in this rivalry matchup (I am sure Professor Allen Evans will be dressed in his alma mater "College of Idaho purple," so we will have to excuse him just this once.)

And speaking of athletics, the Cascade Conference is holding a "Mascot Challenge." Cast your vote for Monty Mountaineer at www.facebook.com/CascadeCollegiateConference. (Professor Evans, you can even do this!)

Thank you for all of your continued efforts in supporting EOU.

Sincerely,

Bob

Bob Davies, Ph.D.
President