



EASTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:
MONDAY MUSINGS

February 3, 2014

Colleagues,

In the next two weeks, EOU is participating in and/or hosting very important activities: the third annual Celebrate, Educate and Appreciate Diversity (C.E.A.D.) conference and the sixth annual Union County Walk for Warmth.

Set for Saturday, Feb. 8, C.E.A.D. is the brainchild of many students, faculty and staff working together with the desire to create a forum for students to learn how to take on difficult questions and develop their own leadership skills.

Arranged like a professional conference and symposium, sessions and workshops are selected based on the ability to provide our students, as well as those from other universities and community colleges, the opportunity to develop necessary leadership skills to lead organizations in an increasingly complex and globally connected environment.

All activities are aimed at increasing awareness of cultural differences and emphasize not only how to accept these distinctions, but also how to build on the thoughts and ideas of others to generate opportunities for everyone, creating an environment of inclusion.

Participants of the first two C.E.A.D. conferences have been enthusiastic about the impact it has had on them and I hope you will encourage your students to participate in this year's event. For more information see www.eou.edu/news-press/cead-conference-2014. Registrations are being accepted through today, Feb. 3, at <http://eou.orgsync.com/org/multiculturalcenter/cead>.

The following Saturday, Feb. 15, Walk for Warmth begins at the Union County Senior Center (1504 Albany St.) at 10 a.m. It is a very sad fact that many families living in our area do not have enough money to pay their heating bills – especially as it gets increasingly colder in these winter months.

In 2009, members of The Alliance for Social Change, our anthropology/sociology club at the time, along with C.U.R.R.E.N.T.S. of Justice for Peace and other local organizations, banded together to increase awareness of this issue and raise money to assist families in need.

All funds raised are made available to the non-profit Community Connection of Northeast Oregon to assist families in Union County who are ineligible for the limited federal Low-

Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

In addition, given recent cuts to SNAP (food stamps), and potentially even greater federal cuts of over \$8 billion this coming week with the likely passage of a compromise Farm Bill, the walk acknowledges “eating is heating” and will share 10 percent of money raised as “fuel for bodies,” permitting Community Connection to address needs for the most vulnerable among us.

Dr. Rosemary Powers has been a major force for this program since its inception and the MESA student organization (the multi-disciplinary successor to the Alliance for Social Change) has put all of their might behind this very important cause. Join me in supporting this effort by making a donation, forming a team or participating in any way you can. To learn more, contact Dr. Powers at rpowers@eou.edu or visit the Walk for Warmth website at <http://w4wno.drupalgardens.com>.

Star of Eastern Oregon University

How enjoyable is it when the first words out of your teenage daughter’s mouth are: “WOW, science is cool!” My daughter said this right when she got home after participating in the “Family Science Night” at La Grande Middle School.

The event was lead by Donna Rainboth, MAT students in her secondary and elementary science methods class, along with Ray Brown and students from his secondary social studies methods class. Additionally, students from the CUESTE science methods class supported the event, and Anna Cavinato and members of the chemistry club provided an “explosive” exhibition to end the evening.

The two-hour interactive and hands-on educational program clearly kept the attention of the nearly 200 participants, including middle school students, their siblings and parents. An LMS staff member told Dr. Rainboth that he has “never seen so many middle school students so actively engaged in learning for so long with no goofing off.” Well done!

Kudos and Miscellaneous

Congratulations to Peter Wordelman and all who participated and performed in “Then & Now Hit Shuffle.” It was an astonishing exhibition of the talents of our students and faculty. The range of music and the incredible choreography of Catherine Herrmann-Kossi made for a thrilling combination. Our music department and chamber choir team up to present this annual concert, which is produced and executed with such professional precision and care that audiences always leave anxious for the next one. This year’s was no exception.

This Thursday, Feb. 6, more than 460 high school students from around eastern Oregon will be on campus competing in the annual Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Regional Skills Conference. This is an exciting event for the participants, as they have been preparing all year. It is also a great time for us to showcase our campus to these aspiring leaders!

The next Ars Poetica Literary Lecture Series will feature a husband and wife duo, Robert Wrigley and Kim Barnes, reading at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11 in Pierce Library. For details go to www.eou.edu/news-press/ars-poetica-wrigley-barnes.

Congratulations to our men's basketball team for winning two conference games this weekend over Warner Pacific and Concordia (ranked 21st in the latest national rankings). Our women's team defeated Warner Pacific on Friday, but lost in a hard fought game on Saturday to Concordia. Both teams will travel to the College of Idaho this Friday (Allen...you told me you would be wearing EOU colors this time!)

Also, congratulations to our men's and women's indoor track teams. Over the weekend, Damion Flores, Isaac Updike and Kadie Booth broke five school records. A total of 12 students have qualified for the NAIA Indoor Nationals.

Thank you all for your continued support of EOU, our students and our community. Have a great week.

Sincerely,

Bob

Bob Davies
President