



EASTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:
MONDAY MUSINGS

March 31, 2014

Colleagues,

Welcome to the start of spring term. I hope you had the opportunity to take some time off last week to recharge a little.

Looking beyond our commitment to students, our University will be going through a tremendous amount of change these next few months. In early April, our future governance structure will be clarified, as our request for an institutional board will be heard by the State Board of Higher Education and they will either endorse it outright, endorse with conditions, or not endorse. If they approve with or without conditions, we have a clear pathway forward. If they do not, then the Legislative Committee on University Governance will forward a recommendation to the legislature and a decision will be made in the 2015 session.

Concurrently—I anticipate this will also occur in the early part of the term—the interim president for next year will be announced. Many of you have asked me who I am recommending or who it will be. This decision officially rests in the hands of the State Board of Higher Education and I have purposefully maintained a distance from the process. I have answered questions and provided thoughts, but I do not know the individuals they have talked with and/or where they are heading with this appointment.

As I have stated on multiple occasions, one of the primary roles of a governing board is selecting and evaluating the president. This process, to me, highlights why an institutional board consisting of people focused solely on the success of Eastern, should be impaneled and established for our University. Once the decision is made regarding the interim president, I will move expeditiously with the appointment of an interim provost.

Finally, over the course of this spring we will be going through a significant budget reallocation and reduction process. As stated in my University-wide announcement at the end of winter, we will work very closely with the interim leadership team, along with the leadership of the shared governing bodies, to

make a series of difficult decisions. It is the goal of the provost and I to make these decisions in tandem with those who will implement them so that EOU is well-positioned for continued success. We must address many issues and now is the time to do so. Through this process, the provost and I will communicate and engage the University community as frequently as possible.

As we navigate the many challenges of this term, it is important for us to work together and realize that while uncertainties abound, our focus is on serving our students and furthering our mission of service to Oregon. Each of us deals with ambiguity and change differently and we need to remind ourselves that stress will manifest in different ways. These are the times in which we must come together, not pit one against another. Eastern Oregon University is a community that prides itself on teamwork and it is with this spirit we will strive to make the very best decisions possible for the long-term success of this wonderful institution.

Kudos

Congratulations to Tawnya Lubbes, assistant professor in the College of Education, who lead a team in submitting and receiving a State of Oregon Strategic Initiative Grant of nearly \$200,000 for her proposal of the “Eastern Oregon University: Center for Culturally Responsive Practices.” The grant notification letter stated, “The proposals were reviewed by a highly diverse committee of 12 individuals, including eight external reviewers with expertise in culturally responsive pedagogy and practice, teacher preparation and educator professional development. The consensus of the committee was that your proposal provided strong evidence of your readiness to move forward and will provide the state with an excellent best practice model for future reference.”

Congratulations to Laurie Yates, assistant professor in the College of Business, on her election as president of the Region 7 International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education.

Our accounting major has been endorsed by the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA), an international organization. IMA has about 70,000 members of which 40,000 are Certified Management Accountants. India, China, Dubai, South America, Australia, Europe, Canada and the U.S. are represented. The endorsement recognizes schools such as WSU-V, Michigan State, BYU, Penn State, Cleary, Utah State and now, EOU. Some schools applying are USC, OSU and others.

EOU, through our College of Education, is one of five recipients of the Oregon Minority Educator Pipeline Models Grant and Oregon Minority Educator Retention Grant through the creation of the “Oregon Teacher Pathway” at EOU. The grant is for \$171,000 and will support an effort to recruit and retain minority educators throughout eastern Oregon. The review team evaluated a total of 12 Pipeline Models Grant proposals and four Retention Grant proposals.

Applications were reviewed by a highly diverse team of 13 individuals, including eight external reviewers with expertise in minority teacher preparation, recruitment and retention.

Aaron Thornburg, assistant professor of anthropology, will lead the next colloquium at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 10 in Ackerman Hall, Room 210. He shares his experiences and will also screen student projects in “Digital Storytelling in the Anthropology Classroom: Potential Problems and Pedagogical Promise.” Read more at www.eou.edu/news-press/colloquium-thornburg.

The first senior art capstone exhibition of 2014, “45-118: Estuaries,” opens with a reception from 6-8 p.m. April 4 in Nightingale Gallery. This exhibit is comprised of a collection of paintings, drawings and sculptures and features student artists Fernando Hernandez, Joshua McDonald, Zaq Mendenhall and Addie O’Neal. For details go to www.eou.edu/news-press/senior-exhibition-estuaries.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our students. I wish you a productive spring term!

Very respectfully,

Bob

Bob Davies
President