



Wise to Resolve – Patient to Perform

Four score and six years ago in 1929 the people of Oregon, acting by and through the State Legislature created Eastern Oregon Normal School. Its name was changed to Eastern Oregon College of Education in 1939, Eastern Oregon State College in 1973 and finally Eastern Oregon University in 1997. For 86 years this institution has been a member of the Oregon State System of Higher Education and has been governed by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education.

But, beginning today and becoming fully effective in a few months, a new era is dawning in which the institution will be emancipated with the advent of a new, local governing board of trustees, hereinafter called the EOU Trustees. This is a marker event and one that should be celebrated. For the first time in the institution's history, it will be independent and governed by a group of dedicated and concerned citizens intent on serving both the best interests of the institution and those it serves.

EOU is a very important entity for this region and for the State of Oregon. It is an enterprise with the power to change lives, create and disseminate new knowledge and transform the economy of the region and the state. As such, it deserves to have a Board comprised of concerned and caring individuals to guide its operations, advocate on its behalf, and ensure it remains accountable to its constituents by offering quality programs and services.

As trustees, you will fill a critical void in the leadership of the institution at an important juncture in the institution's history and the future of this region. Your first order of business will involve hiring the next president for the institution and helping to perfect the direction for the institution. What a wonderful opportunity for a great group of people. Thank you for agreeing to serve on this board. I guarantee your work will be meaningful and much appreciated by those within the institution as well as those who seek its services. As Yule Brenner said so eloquently in the movie, the Ten Commandments, "So let it be written, so let it be done."

Thank you again; I know we (collectively) will not be disappointed.

Jay Kenton
Interim EOU President