



EASTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:
MONDAY MUSINGS

April 14, 2014

Colleagues,

Thanks to all of the members of our community who participated in the multiple forums held last week with Chancellor Rose.

In my follow-up meeting with the chancellor, she remarked multiple times how well our faculty, staff, students and external community members are engaged with the University. She was also impressed with our shared governing bodies and how well versed they are with the challenges we face, along with acknowledging the immense opportunities we are working on and the potential that they will have for our University.

Furthermore, she was extremely impressed and moved by the passion and pride each of you expressed for our University. She supported this through her comments in that we have a clearly defined sense of purpose and a shared commitment to our core values as an institution. And she noted that this level of understanding and commitment is not evident at many universities.

As she makes her recommendation to the State Board of Higher Education for our interim president, this will be an important and critical attribute – someone who will be able to continue and foster this great sense of Eastern and understand our culture and ethos.

I know too, from her visit, that she will work diligently and expeditiously with the State Board to name an interim as soon as possible. When this occurs, we will bring them to campus as quickly as possible to introduce him/her to all stakeholders. I will also move expeditiously to name the interim provost once we know who the interim president will be. I have been provided through many venues and forums, a plethora of possible and viable candidates. As we have much work that needs to be done by the end of this academic year, I will move quickly.

Also during the chancellor's visit, many questions were fielded regarding the institutional board for Eastern and specifically the "conditions" that will be formalized. It is my hope that over the next 10 to 14 days we will begin to see the formation of some of the concepts regarding these statements. Based on my initial conversations with members of the State Board, it is clear to me the intent is to have these be goals and objectives statements that are in line with our strategic planning process. They should be meaningful objectives that are attainable and will lead to long-term success. I will work closely with our shared governing leaders and share information as it becomes available.

I want to re-emphasize that Chancellor Rose was extremely impressed with our University community. She acknowledged the immense amount of change we are all facing; however, she

noted that we are not letting that get in the way of doing our work and maintaining our commitment to focus on the success of our students and serve the region.

Stars of Eastern Oregon University

Every lunch and dinner, our students go through the line at the Mountie Café in Hoke. They are greeted first by Lynn, who knows most on a first-name basis, including their friends. If Lynn hasn't seen someone in a while, he inquires to make sure they are OK. He also asks how they are doing in their classes or what they scored on their recent exam. Following Lynn, Ken is the next person our students encounter. Ken displays that same warmth and caring for each student or visitor. He takes the time to assist them and make sure they get all that need, and like Lynn, knows all of our students. Then, there is the veritable, cheerful Robin. Anyone who has talked with Robin knows she brings a smile to your face and has the ability to make us laugh. Therefore, Lynn, Ken and Robin in the Mountie Café – and the many others who work there and serve our students – are the Stars of Eastern. Their friendliness, quality service and ability to make each and everyone they come in contact with feel special, is extraordinary!

Kudos and More

Congratulations to Devon Hill and the team of students and staff that organized and led the annual EOU Student Leadership Confab last Saturday. This year's theme was "Break Out of Your Shell" and featured keynote speaker Kristen Hadeed, a young entrepreneur and business owner from Florida. Hadeed spoke about factors that help determine a young person's success in life: leadership, self-confidence and overcoming fear of failure.

The Third Wednesday Roundhouse Reading Series will be held at Joe Beans this Wednesday, April 16, with novelist Scott Elliot, associate professor of creative writing at Whitman College. The author of "Coiled in the Heart" will share selections from his most recent novel, "Temple Grove." Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the reading starting at 7. An open mic will follow.

Rae Ette Newman, assistant professor in the College of Education, has been selected to present her original research on "Utilizing two strategies for improving parental knowledge and parental perceptions in an Urban Title I school for both English and Spanish speaking families" at the National Institute for Early Childhood Development, for the National Association for the Education Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC is the largest organization working on behalf of young children.

In celebration of National Poetry Month, author Jennifer Boyden will read for Ars Poetica at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17, in Pierce Library. Hear selections from her award-winning new poetry collection, "The Declarable Future," through which she explores the confusion, indifference and disregard that has ensued post-911. Boyden was presented with the 2013 Four Lakes Prize in Poetry based on this work. Members of the musical group, 45th Parallel, will also perform.

I wish you all an excellent week.

Sincerely,

Bob

Bob Davies
President