



EASTERN OREGON  
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:  
MUSINGS

May 27, 2014

Colleagues,

I hope you all had an enjoyable three-day weekend and were able to spend Memorial Day with friends and family.

Last Friday afternoon I had the extreme pleasure of hosting two state senators on campus: our local Senator Bill Hansell and Senator Michael Dembrow (from metro-Portland). During their visit, we were able to take them around and tour our campus, meet with various faculty, staff and students. In addition, we had the opportunity for them to have a “sneak preview” of two scenes from “Les Miserables” and visit the Nightingale Gallery to view the All-Campus Juried Student Exhibition. To say that the talents of our students impressed them would be an extreme understatement!

Senator Dembrow has not been on our campus for at least 10 years, and at the end of his visit, voiced his appreciation for the great work that we do at Eastern. During their time here, we talked at length about the fiscal situation we are facing and discussed the recommendations that have been presented to the University community. We also talked at length regarding the past budgetary decisions at the state level and the impact on Eastern, and universities like us throughout the state and nation. While both senators were extremely knowledgeable of our situation prior to their visit, I believe the interactions that they specifically had with faculty and students were extremely beneficial to them as it put the magnitude of the issues in a perspective that you can not get while sitting at a desk in Salem.

Senator Dembrow spoke optimistically about the forthcoming 2015 Legislative session as well as about the impending institutional board for Eastern (and the other technical and regional universities) and the formulation of the HECC. He believes that the state of Oregon is at the point where it can begin to reinvest in higher education and that we should begin to see some of those actions in the near term. While he was optimistic, he also stated very clearly that Eastern must continue on its path that it has set forward in the Sustainability Plan. As he stated, the universities cannot plan on or develop strategies that are contingent on immediate infusions of state dollars and that the fiscal planning we are undergoing must be done in order to prove fiscal viability.

In closing, both senators expressed their appreciation and understanding to all of our faculty, staff and students regarding the hard work and feedback that has gone into the Sustainability Plan. They know it is not easy and that many other universities are going through similar situations. However, they did express that, even during these times, how

impressed they are by the quality of our students and the commitment that each one of you have to our University.

### **Star of Eastern Oregon University**

Over the past 10 plus weeks, a great deal of attention has been paid to our enrollment numbers. I want to take this opportunity to thank and give credit to our hard working Admissions counselors, processors and staff. A day does not go by in which one of our Admissions counselors are not on the road, or working their territories from California to Alaska to Wyoming and Arizona. They work diligently and are focused in representing EOU and working with, as of last report, nearly 2,000 potential students who have submitted an application to EOU. This is a very competitive process and I sincerely appreciate the hard work and dedication of our admissions team.

### **Kudos and upcoming events**

If you have not had the opportunity to see “Les Miserables,” you have Thursday, Friday and Saturday to watch our amazing students and community members in action. It is by far one of the best performances I have seen in my five years at Eastern and was a terrific experience for our entire family. For more details and ticket information go to [www.eou.edu/news-press/les-miserables](http://www.eou.edu/news-press/les-miserables).

Today and tomorrow from 1 to 5:30 p.m. in the Hoke Student Leadership Zone will be the “Tunnel of Oppression.” This event is being led by EOU senior Eric Martin who is majoring in anthropology and sociology. The concept of this activity is based on the Museum of Tolerance that has been conducted at many other universities. Participants in this interactive program are guided through a series of rooms where they encounter oppressive actions and reactions including racism, homophobia, poverty and oppression against women. For details go to [www.eou.edu/news-press/tunnel-of-oppression](http://www.eou.edu/news-press/tunnel-of-oppression).

The annual spring book sale is May 30-June 1 in Hoke 339 with all proceeds supporting our Women’s Resource Center. For details go to [www.eou.edu/news-press/wrc-book-sale](http://www.eou.edu/news-press/wrc-book-sale).

In athletic news, the Mountaineers claimed one national championship on the final day of the 2014 NAIA Outdoor Track and Field National Championships as [Hans Roelle](#) won the National Title in the 800 meter run. EOU also earned 10 All-American honors at the meet.

### **EOU's 2014 All-Americans**

Hans Roelle – Men’s 800 Meter Run- CHAMPION  
Brian Wickham – Men’s Hammer Throw-5th  
Megan Sullivan – Women’s 4x400 Meter Relay- 8th  
Irene Olivo –Women’s 4x400 Meter Relay- 8th  
Carlondra McGee-Woolbright – Women’s 4x400 Meter Relay- 8th  
Kadie Booth – Women’s 4x400 Meter Relay- 8th  
Kadie Booth – Women’s 400 Meter Run-4th  
Lucas Updike – Men’s 3,000 Meter Steeplechase-4th  
Harley McBride – Women’s High Jump-7th  
Damion Flores – Men’s 5,000 Meter Run- 2nd

**Team Places**- Men- 8th, Women 26th

To conclude, as I am sure we all have heard about the tragedy that occurred last Friday near the UC Santa Barbara campus, please keep the families and friends of those who passed or were injured, as well our colleagues at UCSB, in our thoughts and prayers as they deal with the unanswerable questions and pain that was inflicted.

Very Respectfully,

Bob

Bob Davies  
President