



EASTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:
MONDAY MUSINGS

June 9, 2014

Colleagues,

This is my final "Monday Musings." Over the past five years together we have made significant and tremendous strides in advancing our University and our region. During this same time, we overcame many large and varied obstacles that, to be honest, many did not think we would or could.

Clearly EOU, like most mid-sized, regionally based universities, has challenges to overcome – and I know these will indeed be conquered. At the same time, I hope you realize the amazing opportunities that exist and the potential that remains for our University. This is a time marked by significant change and uncertainty. By focusing on what we do best—in serving students and the region—EOU will indeed overcome the immediate challenges and thrive in the very near future.

Each of you should be very proud, when you reflect on the past five years and beyond, of what our University community has endured and how it is positioning itself for the future to succeed in the new context and environment that has engulfed public higher education in our state and nation. Later today, we release the updated Sustainability Plan and while we are reducing our offerings, we are also positioning the University to meet these new challenges by incorporating a great deal of the feedback we received.

As I reflect on the last five years I want to thank each of you for the opportunity, and very much the honor, of being allowed to serve you as president. I have learned a great deal from each one of you and have been moved by your passion for our University and for our students. I saw first-hand the many times that you went out of your way to find a solution for a student and to provide a pathway forward for them, even when they themselves didn't believe that they would succeed. Each of you provided new paradigms and perspectives for us to consider as we seized new opportunities and overcame our challenges and obstacles.

Your constant feedback and suggestions made me challenge my own views and perceptions and sharpened my analysis, understanding and theories. Your comments and insights enabled me to grow and advance my own set of skills and thoughts on leadership. I am very appreciative of that, as it did make me a better leader and person.

Five years ago, you welcomed not only me, but also my family. Cindy, too, cherishes her time associated with EOU and the region. She has made many great and life-long friendships

through her activities. Katie has grown from our time here as well, as she gained confidence and security through her association with many of you and our students.

Eastern Oregon University is indeed, as a long-time faculty member told me when I first arrived, a family. We have our times of celebration and joy, and we have our times that are challenging and fraught with tension. But, in the end and through it all, we are a family that works together and grows together, through the best and trying of times.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of this much larger community. We will miss you and reflect on these years with great memories that are full of joy, laughter, hard work, dedication and perseverance.

Over the next week, there will be many events and activities to celebrate our students, faculty and staff. I look forward to attending these with the knowledge that it will be the last time I am able to do so in my current role. While my eyes will indeed water and my voice will fill with emotion, it will not be because of any sadness or regret; rather because of the joy that I will take with me in having been part of this amazing University set in an astonishing region, and that it will always be part of who I am and how I see the world.

Very humbly and thankfully,

Bob

Bob Davies
President