CITY OF KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

500 KLAMATH AVENUE – P.O. BOX 237
KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON 97601

Sister City
ROTORUA, NEW ZEALAND

June 23, 2016

Higher Education Coordinating Commission
c/o Ben Cannon, Executive Director
775 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
ben.cannon@state.or.us

Subject: Support for Oregon Tech's Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology / Cornett Renovation

Dear Director Cannon and Members of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Klamath Falls to express our support for Oregon Tech's capital construction project: the Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology/Cornett Hall Renovation. The City views the university as a critical partner in this region's financial and civic health, and we support the university's growth as it gains national and state acclaim for its innovative programs and the preparedness and skills of its graduates.

According to a recent Economic Impact Analysis by EcoNorthwest, our Klamath community benefits from $75M in total annual output in Klamath County from Oregon Tech. That is an astounding contribution to our region's economic vitality. Capital projects, like the Engineering Center, contribute significantly to this output and generate short-term construction jobs and long-term faculty and staff jobs for our City. Construction and renovation of both facilities will account for approximately 364 jobs. We hope many of those jobs will be in Klamath Falls.

The City of Klamath Falls encourages you to support the Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology / Cornett Hall Renovation, and urges you to ensure that Oregon Tech's Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology is ranked high on the prioritized list. Engineering education is critical to the economic development of the state, the success of our regional businesses, and to our kids who need meaningful, well-paying jobs in rural Klamath Falls and in Oregon.

Thank you in advance for your support of Oregon Tech and its capital construction priorities.

Sincerely,

Todd Kellstrom
Mayor, City of Klamath Falls