6/24/2016

Higher Education Coordinating Committee

c/o Ben Cannon, Executive Directo775 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

RE: Capital Funding for Center for Engineering Excellence at Oregon Institute of Technology/Phase 2, Cornett Hall Renovation

Dear Members of the Higher Education Coordinating Committee,

I, Philip Dussel, am writing as one working with students in Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering Technology (MMET) as Instrument Technician/Lab Manager. As an Industry Advisory Board member I feel very strongly that the proverbial rubber meets the road in the various MMET labs, where theory is transformed into reality. I would like to take this opportunity to bullet point what a new engineering building would mean:

- Most importantly, several departments would have a presence there, including Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering Technology (MMET), Civil Engineering (CE), Electrical Engineering & Renewable Energy (EERE), Computer Systems Engineering Technology (CSET), Geomatics, Management, and Oregon Renewable Energy Center (OREC). As a consequence, the Center would not merely symbolize, but essentially personify, the multidisciplinary, collaborative approach at the heart of modern engineered applications. A concerted approach to, and implementation of, innovative ideas, coupled with the operational capabilities of such a Center, would strengthen measurable educational outcomes;
- Expanded capabilities would bring in more project ideas. Once ideas have hatched at the Center, additional growth will be enabled. This is the way the university itself has evolved and grown since first organized as Oregon Technical Institute;
- To Oregon Tech, a new, modern Center would enhance the broader educational mission and deepen the widely recognized success enjoyed by graduates, faculty and staff;
- The community of Klamath Falls at-large would recognize the new building as (another) distinctive landmark on the Klamath Falls campus, and would benefit from the construction spending;
- Lastly, all boats would float higher, in the sense that the community of students, whatever program they are engaged in. would be inspired to reach farther, expect and achieve more.

I will continue to advocate for this high-value and high-return investment. I urge the Committee to place the Center at the top of the capital construction project list.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Philip Dussel

MMET

Instrument Technician