



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA CONTACT**

Rylee Ahnen, PR & Media Strategist  
503.495.2116  
rylee.ahnen@oregoned.org

**OEA: Oregon Department of Corrections Proposal will Leave Learners Behind**

*The Department of Corrections has tried, and failed, to save money by cutting education programs before*

PORTLAND, OR – Following the Oregon Department of Corrections proposal to end their relationship with Oregon’s community colleges and, rather than utilizing the talents of trained Oregon educators, move their Adult Basic Education program “in-house,” Oregon Education Association President John Larson released the following statement:

“For years, the Oregon Department of Corrections has worked collaboratively with faculty members at our state community colleges to develop and implement Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs at Oregon correctional facilities. This relationship gave the ABE population access to professionally trained educators and resulted in Oregon maintaining one of the highest GED completion rates for correctional institutions in the nation. The DOC’s recent proposal to end this critical relationship threatens years of progress that have been made at our correctional facilities and will leave adult learners behind.”

Maintaining strong education programs in Oregon’s correctional facilities is a critical component to reducing recidivism and reincarceration. The 2014 RAND Study found that adults in custody who participate in educational programming are 13% more likely to gain employment upon release than those who do not participate and are 43% less likely to be reincarcerated. Moreover, when DOC last brought their Adult Basic Education program ‘in-house’ at Oregon State Penitentiary from 2003-2006, successful completion of programs declined by about 50% while seeing costs rise. This is not the solution.

The Oregon Education Association urges the Department of Corrections to reverse course and withdraw its proposal to radically alter its Adult basic Education programming.