



**The Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health at the University of Oregon will be the first of its kind, establishing an ecosystem of support for Oregon's K-12 students' behavioral and mental health powered by research, public health, and public education.**

**Background:** In December 2021 Surgeon General Vivek Murthy issued an advisory highlighting the acute mental and behavioral health crisis facing our youth. The Surgeon General's advisory corroborated news we see daily, and the lived experience of teachers, school professionals and students.

It is this crisis that has called the University of Oregon to launch the Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health, a one-of-a-kind effort to provide skills and training to those who work with students every day.

Made possible by a lead gift of more than \$400 million from Connie and Steve Ballmer, the institute serves the University of Oregon's mission of teaching, research, and service, and will transform the Pacific Northwest into a national model of thought and action to address challenges in children's behavioral health.

**The Ballmer Institute:** Through the Ballmer Institute the University of Oregon will provide evidence-based research to improve the behavioral and mental health of Oregon's youth by bridging the gap between clinical research and professionals and educators working at the center of Oregon's behavioral and mental health crisis.

A multidisciplinary team of psychologists, neuroscientists, and early childhood development specialists will work to cultivate and train new cohorts of dedicated professionals in the behavioral and mental health field in these ways:

- **Training for Existing Professionals:** Create a certificate program for mid-career professionals such as teachers, support staff, early childhood/preschool teachers and daycare providers, and behavioral specialists, to equip them with the tools and techniques to promote behavioral health wellness.
- **A New Workforce:** Develop an undergraduate program, subject to state approval, to create a new level of mental-health practitioners, akin to a bachelor's of nursing degree.
- **Enable Discovery:** Faculty and students will work together in real time to continually inform, strengthen, and expand the body of research in this important field.

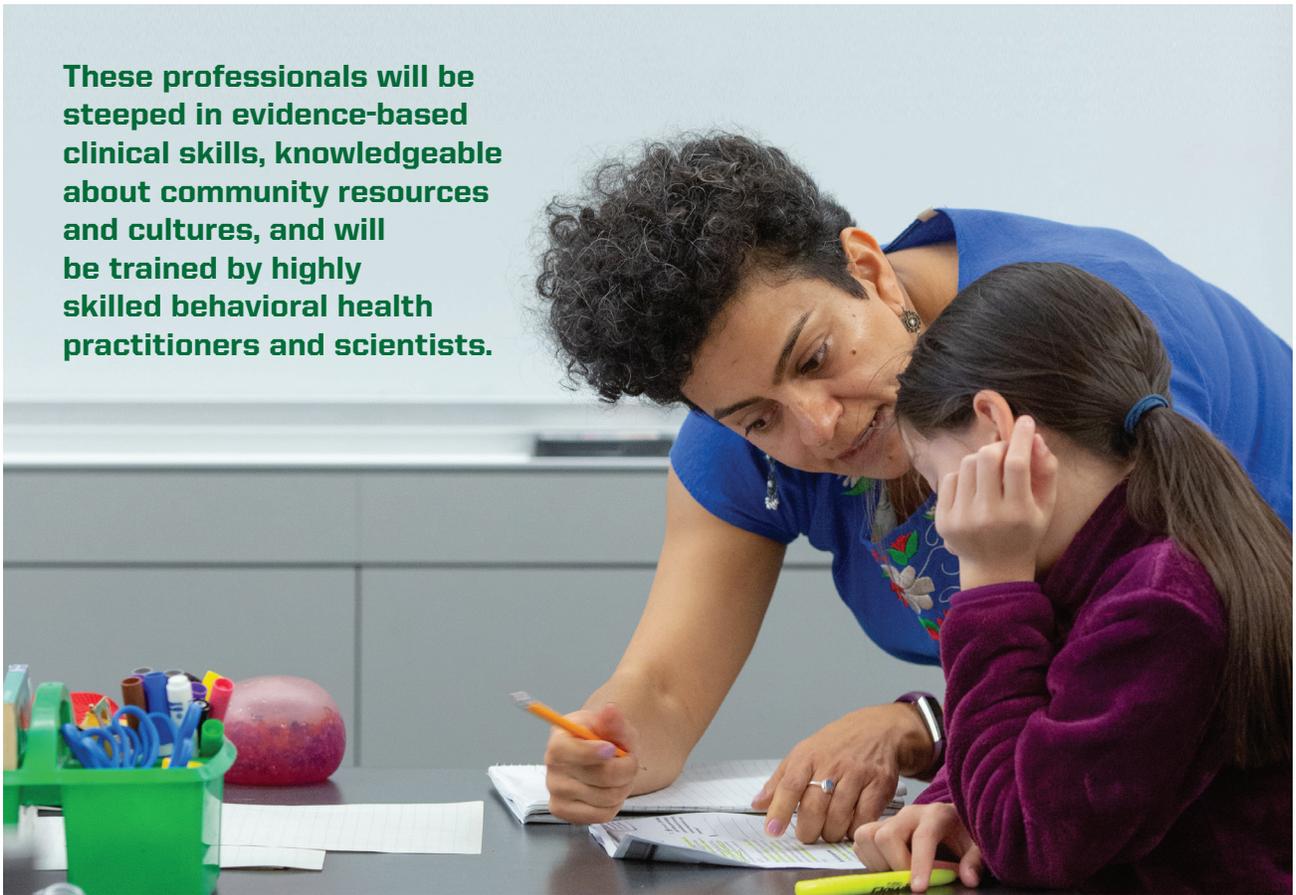
When fully operational, the academic program will graduate at least 200 behavioral health practitioners each year who can deliver services for children and families across a broad spectrum of settings including schools, doctors' offices, and social services agencies.

**“Mental health challenges in children, adolescents, and young adults are real and widespread. Even before the pandemic, an alarming number of young people struggled with feelings of helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide... The future wellbeing of our country depends on how we support and invest in the next generation.”**

**Vivek H. Murthy, M.D.,**  
Surgeon General of the  
United States  
December 7, 2021



**These professionals will be steeped in evidence-based clinical skills, knowledgeable about community resources and cultures, and will be trained by highly skilled behavioral health practitioners and scientists.**



**The Gift:** This effort is made possible by a lead gift of more than \$400 million from Connie and Steve Ballmer. The gift will:

- Permanently fund the hiring of 25 clinical and tenure track faculty,
- Endow the operations of the institute going forward,
- Provide scholarships to graduate a new, diverse and culturally rich workforce prepared to work directly with those in need, and
- Support the purchase of the former Concordia University campus in NE Portland where the Ballmer Institute will be housed.

To learn more, visit

**[CHILDRENSBEHAVIORALHEALTH.UOREGON.EDU](http://CHILDRENSBEHAVIORALHEALTH.UOREGON.EDU)**

**The University of Oregon, higher education partners, community organizations and state government will integrate leading-edge research with community support for Oregon's young people, especially those in persistently underserved communities.**