

Subject: The Maples Report: Volume 2, Issue 3

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Volume 2, Issue 3

December 2009

In gratitude for helping us meet the Oregon University System's goals

In this season of giving, gratitude, and belonging, I want to pause a moment to give thanks to Oregon Tech's faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends who tirelessly make OIT the wonderful, special university that it is. We collectively are so much more than any one of us, or any small group of us, could be without each other. The same is true of the [Oregon University System](#) and the importance of Oregon Tech in contributing to overall OUS goals in the state of Oregon. As the four-year and advanced-graduate public educational system in Oregon, the OUS and all of its member institutions (Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Southern Oregon University, University of Oregon, and Western Oregon University) contribute to the public educational mission in Oregon. To that end, the OUS has four stated goals:

1. Create in Oregon an **educated citizenry** to support responsible roles in a democratic society and provide a globally competitive workforce to drive the State's economy, **while ensuring access** for all qualified Oregonians to quality postsecondary education
2. Ensure **high-quality student learning** leading to subsequent student success
3. Create **original knowledge** and advance **innovation**
4. Contribute positively to the **economic, civic, and cultural life of communities** in all regions of Oregon

Oregon Tech strives to meet these four goals at statewide, regional, and local levels. Oregon Tech is a university of choice for numerous Oregonians, many of whom are first-generation students and may have begun their college careers elsewhere. We take pride in helping the OUS achieve its four goals, and will continue to offer high-quality degrees and programs in small settings that emphasize hands-on learning.

As a part of meeting the OUS goals, we will focus on recruitment of Oregonians – the people who help support public education in our state through taxes – but not to the exclusion or detriment of students who have homes outside of Oregon, especially given that we are the only institution of our type in the Pacific Northwest. Even though state support has declined, OIT will continue the hard work, sacrifice, and collective giving of our students, staff, faculty, and friends of Oregon Tech. So, I want to extend my deepest and most personal thanks to all of you who make Oregon Tech work now, and to everyone who passed through these doorways in the past to make Oregon Tech what it is. Our future is being built upon the solid foundation of our past, and you all have had a direct hand in making us an excellent university with a flourishing reputation.

Excellence is the key to our future, and we will continue to focus on the excellence of our total student experience at OIT – excellent faculty and classes, excellent student services and student life, and excellent facilities. Although these are uncommon times, Oregon Tech's small size and nimble responses to these times will serve us well as we emerge from the current economic challenges. We will continue to build on the already highly regarded quality of our programs and departments in order to continue to improve our offerings and the relevance of our degrees to Oregon, the nation, and the world. We can and will emerge as an even better university than ever before. I look forward to a wonderful new year with all of you as we shape the future of Oregon Tech together!

“Pink Out!” coming in February

To support breast cancer awareness and the Martha Anne Dow Center for Health Professions, Oregon Tech plans a “Pink Out!” for the final home basketball games of the 2009-10 season. Both the women's and men's teams will be wearing pink uniforms for their final home matches, which happen to be versus Southern Oregon University on Saturday, February 13. Fans will be given a pink t-shirt at the door. We are all very excited about what should be a great evening and fitting tribute to President Dow's vision for the health sciences at Oregon Tech. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Record enrollment at Oregon Tech

Last month, the Oregon University System announced its 4th-week Fall Term enrollment figures. This is an historic moment for the OUS in general and for Oregon Tech in particular. The [OUS has a record headcount enrollment](#) of 91,500 students enrolled at a public university in the State of Oregon. Oregon Tech also has a record headcount enrollment of 3,927 students, which represents an 11.4% increase in students since this time last year. Oregon Tech's percentage increase was the second largest in the Oregon University System (behind only the Oregon State University Cascades campus in Bend).

Kudos and congratulations

Congratulations to **Toni Boyd** and the Geo-Heat Center. Oregon Tech has received a Department of Energy sub-award through Boise State University for the National Geothermal Database. This is a multi-year award, the first-year budget of which is \$160,000.

Civil Engineering students **Chelsea McNeil, Noah Brennan, Andrea Rose**, and **Quency Fahlgren** participated in the Region X Student Transportation Conference last month at the University of Oregon. Oregon Tech's students were in a mix of mostly graduate students. Oregon Tech's (McNeil and Rose) poster presentation was the only one produced by undergraduates and earned second place.

At the first meeting of the new Oregon Health Policy Board in November, five of Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute's Board of Directors were named to the 23-member Health Care Workforce Committee. Oregon Tech's **Lita Colligan** was one of the five appointed from a nomination pool of 60. OHWI exists to coordinate and advance a comprehensive statewide response to the growing health care workforce shortage.

Brad Burda was officially appointed to Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Did you know?

Often the paper we place in recycle bins actually ends up in landfills. This is because paper frequently becomes contaminated in comingled recycle bins and is thrown away – defeating the purpose of a recycling program. To overcome the trend, Oregon Tech and **REACH, Inc.** (Restoration Education and Community Habilitation) have partnered by adding special gray recycling bins in most campus buildings to collect paper. This effort also demonstrates another avenue of commitment to sustainability: partnering within our local community.

Oregon Tech, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service partner

Nearly 50 individuals attended an informal groundbreaking and planting party for a new Native Plant Schoolyard Habitat community garden. Provost Brad Burda, Associate Professor Kathy Sale, Laurie Sada of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and I spoke to a small crowd of eager volunteer gardeners on a chilly Saturday in November. Equipped with pickaxes and shovels, the attendees planted the first 97 native plants.

Plants native to the high desert region will occupy space that will be developed by an interdisciplinary team of Oregon Tech students, faculty and staff, as well as groups from the Klamath Basin. The finished

project will be utilized as a teaching garden for Oregon Tech and Klamath Community College students and the Klamath Falls community, including K-12 students. The project is expected to take up to four years to complete.

The USFWS gave two grants totaling \$18,000 to Oregon Tech to begin work on the [OIT Native Plant Schoolyard Habitat](#) . It's my sincerest hope that anyone reading this will visit the garden in the future.

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Clockwise from top left: Kathy Sale, Laurie Sada, and Chris Maples;

common snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) ; volunteers equipped with shovels.

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