Debbie Koreski moved to Corvallis, Oregon in 1999 and has built a career working for the people of Oregon. She is a passionate Oregonian, but brings with her the perspective of her native Tennessee and Mississippi and a deep understanding of the power of education to help realize the American dream. Koreski went to Mississippi State University, where she learned the important role that land grant universities play in American society.

She has spent the past seventeen years working in the Oregon Capitol as Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the House, Associate Vice President of Government Affairs for Portland State University, and most recently as Budget Director for Governor Kate Brown. Along the way, she helped lead the effort to create the 2007 rainy day fund, the 2009 transportation and revenue packages, the 2010 major budget rebalance agreement, and the 2013 creation of independent governing boards for universities.

Her proudest accomplishments include the largest reinvestment in Oregon’s public universities in over two decades and significant capital investments for Portland State University. The 2015 legislature increased university funding by a record 28%, or $143 million dollars - the largest higher education investment in the nation that year. Under Debbie’s leadership at Portland State University, Oregon invested $122 million for new capital construction projects leading to the current campus revitalization efforts at the university.

Debbie has a collaborative leadership style and enjoys spending time with and learning from students, faculty, staff, and alumni. She currently lives in Salem with her husband and two children. She enjoys attending any and all sporting events and taking her dogs to the dog park on a sunny afternoon.

This bio was provided by the candidate and has not been edited.