

2019-21 Biennial Funding Request: Statewide Public Service Programs

BACKGROUND

At the May/June meetings, the university presented—and the Board endorsed—the public universities' FY2019-21 Consolidated Funding Request to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). As part of its presentation, the university also described its efforts to develop and build support for additional investments in the Statewide Public Service Programs. Those investments fell into six categories. Following committee discussion, the Board encouraged the university to seek input from stakeholders and others and return to a future meeting for further consideration.

FUNDING REQUEST

Since that meeting, the Statewides directors, their delegates, and OSU's government relations team have met with a diverse, cross-sector array of stakeholders. They voiced many shared thoughts and concerns, including:

- Solid support for continued investment in the Statewides' core areas of expertise;
- Concern about lost capacity for critical research, locally-relevant and impactful programs, and operational support given prior budgets that fell short of cost escalation;
- Strong interest in, and in some cases commitment to advocate for, many of the proposed new investment initiatives.

In addition, collective stakeholder feedback and support pointed toward revising the six investment areas into a smaller number of themes, which the Statewides leadership consolidated to include:

- Natural resources science and stewardship;
- Sustainable agricultural, food, and natural resource production;
- Community health and resilience.

The Statewides' leadership recommend the university seek a total 2019-21 increase of \$30 million, which is 25 percent above the current funding level. This investment is equivalent to the increase recommended by the HECC for the Public University Support Fund and will **restore, maintain, and build** essential research and Extension programs that address Oregon's most critical needs. The \$30M includes:

- \$14.4M to meet the Continued Service Level for the 2019-21 biennium
- \$15.6M to support research, programs and new initiatives of great value to Oregon and requested by diverse stakeholders across the state

Attachment 1 provides a summary of each investment area. Allocated funding will be split proportionally across the three Statewide Public Service Programs according to the current distribution.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff propose that the Finance & Administration Committee recommend to the Board endorsement of the 2019-21 biennial funding request for a \$30 million increase for the Statewide Public Service Programs.

The Statewides: 2019-21 Funding Request

Extension Service – Agricultural Experiment Station – Forest Research Laboratory

OREGON THRIVES WHEN WE INVEST IN THE STATEWIDES

For the 2019-21 biennium, the Statewides are **seeking a \$30 million increase**, which is 25 percent above the current funding level. This investment will **restore, maintain, and build essential research and Extension programs** that address Oregon’s most critical needs across three areas outlined below. The \$30M investment reverses past declines in funding and provides opportunities for significant return on investment for all Oregonians through key research and programming initiatives.

Natural resources science and stewardship	Sustainable agricultural, food, and natural resource production	Community health and resilience
<p>Oregon has some of the nation’s most diverse and productive ecosystems. Yet, Oregonians are experiencing very real health and economic impacts from a changing climate, including more frequent and severe fires and droughts that challenge the state’s ability to maintain and sustain valuable working landscapes and natural resources– fisheries, forests, pollinators, wildlife and water.</p> <p>The Statewides ensure economic vitality and protect ecosystems from catastrophic loss by collaborating to create fire-resilient and fire-adapted forests, cropping systems, rangelands, and communities; helping land managers adapt to a changing climate; protecting and restoring species and habitats; and addressing systemic challenges to water supplies and water quality.</p>	<p>Oregon’s thousands of farms, timber producers and commercial fishers provide food and fiber for millions and create economic opportunities in urban and rural Oregon. The state needs solutions to address climate, pest, and market challenges that threaten the sustainability of agricultural, forest, and food systems across natural and working landscapes.</p> <p>The Statewides provide a strong, science-based approach by providing research, outreach, innovation and training needed to address emerging challenges; developing new products, markets, varieties, cropping systems and integrated pest management approaches; and facilitating the design and adoption of new technologies.</p>	<p>Oregonians are independent, hard-working, and innovative, yet Oregon communities struggle with economic and health challenges of food security, poverty, underemployment, addictions, suicide and low graduation rates. To enhance the viability of the agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries Oregon depends on, Oregon must invest in communities’ health and resilience to create a vibrant future for all.</p> <p>The Statewides build resilience by enhancing economic opportunity, creating resilient and healthy food systems, and providing equitable access, programs, and partnerships that build social capital, leverage existing capacity and address complex issues while nurturing future leaders.</p>

WHY THE STATEWIDES?

Trusted expertise: We have a proven ability to bring the best available science to bear on important, complex issues.

Community-based engagement: We work in and with communities that are most affected by these issues.

True partnerships: We help build bridges around shared goals and values that result in real solutions.

INVESTING IN OREGON'S FUTURE

We can make a real and lasting difference in the lives and livelihoods of all Oregonians by investing in three areas that address vital environmental, economic, and social needs. Some of the key ways the \$30 million investment will directly benefit the development of solutions for Oregon's critical needs are included below. New initiatives are scalable, interconnected, informed by stakeholder input and community needs.

Natural resources science and stewardship	Sustainable agricultural, food, and natural resource production	Community health and resilience
<p>Restore and enable core operational support for critical research, Extension, programming, and facilities. Fill, and resource, priority positions that have remained vacant due to reduced funding or are necessary to address emerging needs. Maintain current efforts and develop new initiatives in priority areas with locally-relevant, impactful research and outreach and engagement programming.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest and rangeland fire • Nutrient and water management • Pollinator health • Rangeland ecology and management • Species and habitat protection and restoration <p>Optimize ground and surface water resources for agricultural and forest production, drinking water quality, and ecosystem health through expanded research and outreach.</p> <p>Create a center of excellence and expertise dedicated to addressing systemic challenges to water quality, safety, and supply.</p> <p>Advance pre-fire response efforts to reduce fuel loads on lands that are most at risk to catastrophic wildfire, and deliver fire and drought information and outreach that directly support land managers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fermentation sciences • Food safety • Forest and fisheries management • Integrated pest management (IPM) • New crops and production systems <p>Develop new varieties, products, markets, and cropping systems through expanded research and outreach.</p> <p>Help specialty crop industries adapt to a changing climate and labor markets.</p> <p>Develop new precision technologies to enhance agricultural production and manage natural resources.</p> <p>Establish new curriculum to support the demand for a highly skilled technical workforce.</p> <p>Develop and expand IPM programs to address emerging pest management challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth development, including: 4-H, and college and career readiness • Community and economic development • Health and nutrition education • Small farms and community food systems • Toxin reduction in urban environments <p>Expand research that integrates health sciences expertise and establish broad partnerships to address complex local community challenges.</p> <p>Address root causes of the opioid epidemic and mental health issues by leveraging existing Extension infrastructure and partnerships with communities and the health care industry.</p> <p>Foster skill development for Oregon's rural workforce to step into emerging industries such as data science and the outdoor economy.</p> <p>Develop and expand pest education for schools, agencies, and urban communities.</p>

For more information, please contact:

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