Dear University of Oregon Colleagues,

I am writing to share updates to a number of initiatives that have been under way or in planning at the University of Oregon over the past 18 months. I want to thank the many faculty, staff, and students who have contributed to these efforts, including a particularly deep commitment from the Office of the Provost’s team in support of the initiatives. The projects represent a broad array of academic and non-academic work that will improve the world we inhabit.

The Office of the Provost has established a number of initiatives that are designed to move us forward in ways that can shape the future of the university and our world. The initiatives focus on improving educational and research outcomes, ensuring a more diverse faculty presence and student body, and ensuring that we are protecting and preserving our environment. These efforts will better position the University of Oregon and the university community to address the issues of the day, to shape the future, and to build a campus where everyone — including faculty, students, staff, and alumni — can succeed and thrive.

Here is some information about the progress of these initiatives:

**Data Science Initiative**

Launched in 2017, this is our most established initiative. The sophisticated analysis of large and varied data sets has rapidly expanded our existing data science activities to support undergraduate education and research opportunities. The initiative leads our efforts in the critical COVID-19 response to provide advanced data science tools and technologies to support research and are preparing some results to the public.

**Sports and Wellness Initiative**

Comprehensive data on the impact of COVID-19 has rapidly expanded our existing data science activities to support undergraduate education and research opportunities. Today, we see new research-based innovations and creative pursuits across every school and college, in arts and humanities, in law and public policy, and in our sports and wellness programs.

**Environment Initiative**

With more than 120 educators and more than 600,000 square feet of space, the UO is well-positioned to amplify our work on the environment. The UO is well-positioned to amplify our work on the environment. The university has a historic legacy of innovative thinking and action dating back more than 100 years. It has reached its potential in many ways, but not nearly enough.

**Innovation Initiative**

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**Racial Disparities and Resilience Initiative**

This initiative will create a research and policy center to address disparities and improve outcomes. The center will be led by Dr. Tim Schwartz, who recently joined the university as the director of entrepreneurship and economic development.

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**Transformation Initiative**

The Office of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development has launched the Innovation Initiative for the support of entrepreneurship and innovation programs. Launched in 2017, this is our most established initiative. The sophisticated analysis of large and varied data sets has rapidly expanded our existing data science activities to support undergraduate education and research opportunities. The initiative leads our efforts in the critical COVID-19 response to provide advanced data science tools and technologies to support research and are preparing some results to the public.

**Excellence and Inclusivity Initiative**

This initiative will create a research and policy center to address disparities and improve outcomes. The center will be led by Dr. Tim Schwartz, who recently joined the university as the director of entrepreneurship and economic development.

**Leadership Development Initiative**

Launched in 2017, this is our most established initiative. The sophisticated analysis of large and varied data sets has rapidly expanded our existing data science activities to support undergraduate education and research opportunities. The initiative leads our efforts in the critical COVID-19 response to provide advanced data science tools and technologies to support research and are preparing some results to the public.

**Diversity and inclusion Initiative**

If you have any questions or an interest in assisting this effort.

In conclusion, I hope you will join me in celebrating these initiatives and the work of the faculty, staff, and students who are supporting them. I believe that something truly special is afoot here.

Tim Pitard
Provost

Office of the Provost