Dear University of Oregon Colleagues,

I am writing to share updates on a number of initiatives that have been underway or are about to be launched at the University of Oregon. These initiatives represent unique opportunities to date and underline our diversity across schools and colleges, and underscore our commitment to shaping the future of higher education in Oregon and beyond.

Many of you have already seen several of these initiatives in action, and we are grateful for your ongoing support and engagement in these efforts. I invite you to keep the discussions going and to share your feedback with us. We welcome your ideas and input about how we can continue to work together to drive meaningful change at the University of Oregon.

And in this I am confident we can meet these challenges and play a role in building a brighter future—in part because of the exceptional faculty and staff that we have, as well as the commitment of the students who put their futures in our hands.

Provost and Senior Vice President
Sincerely,

Dear University of Oregon Colleagues,

Innovation Initiatives

And it is a faith that has deepened tremendously during my time as provost. If the last year has told us anything, it is that the University of Oregon is a place of resilience and strength, and that we will not be deterred from our mission.

The Diversity Initiative is one piece of the important work we are undertaking to make our university a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all students, faculty, and staff. This initiative will create a research and policy center on racial disparities and resilience. The center will bring together experts from across the university to address the social, economic, and educational challenges faced by people of color in the United States and beyond.

The Innovation Initiative is a multi-disciplinary effort that will facilitate discussions with faculty from across campus to develop a shared vision for a strategic plan. We have already launched a Faculty Steering Committee to help shepherd campus-wide engagement, examine appropriate strategies, and develop a plan that can be shared across the university.

This effort is supported by the new undergraduate degree program, which was launched this fall and is offering its first classes. The program is designed to prepare students for careers in research and industry, and to provide them with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

This initiative is focused on how, through our multi-disciplinary academic strengths, we can lead and take action on important issues. In particular, with the recent opening of the Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact presenting new opportunities for us to collaborate and innovate.

These five initiatives focus on areas of strength, growth, and potential related to the environment, innovation, health, and diversity. They are not intended to supplant the existing research and scholarly efforts, but represent an invitation to be involved in ongoing conversations about the future of each effort. And, during this period, we will continue to engage in meaningful discussion with the community, and continue to seek input from faculty, staff, and students.

The Office of the Provost

Please provide your comments and suggestions to:

Serena

Office of the Provost