Dear University of Oregon Community,

I am writing to provide updates on a number of critical initiatives that are now under development on our campus. These initiatives have been established as part of the University of Oregon’s ongoing efforts to enhance our teaching and research programs, improve our service to students, and strengthen our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity. They represent an investment in our university’s future and a commitment to ensuring that all students, faculty, and staff have access to a high-quality education and an exceptional research environment.

In this message, I will highlight five initiatives that are currently underway or in development. Each of these initiatives is focused on a specific area of strength, growth, or potential related to the environment, innovation, inclusion, diversity, and equity.

1. Data Science Initiative
   - The Data Science Initiative is an exciting new opportunity to support the development of data science as a discipline and to foster interdisciplinary research and innovation. The initiative will bring together experts from across the university to create a new undergraduate degree program and to support ongoing research and education in data science. The Data Science Initiative will help to ensure that the University of Oregon remains at the forefront of this rapidly evolving field.
   - For more information, or to get involved, please visit the Data Science Initiative website at datascience.uoregon.edu.

2. Diversity Initiative
   - The Diversity Initiative is focused on creating a more welcoming and inclusive campus environment, particularly with historically low numbers of underrepresented faculty. The new Diversity Initiative aims to build an inclusive academic community that is more diverse, equitable, and welcoming to all students, faculty, and staff.
   - For more information, or to get involved, please visit the Diversity Initiative website at diversity.uoregon.edu.

3. Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative
   - The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative is focused on developing a vibrant and sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem that will support the growth of new companies and the creation of jobs. The initiative will provide resources and support for entrepreneurs and start-up companies, as well as for faculty and students who are interested in developing new products and services.
   - For more information, or to get involved, please visit the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative website at innovation.uoregon.edu.

4. Sports and Wellness Initiative
   - The Sports and Wellness Initiative is focused on developing a leadership position within the sportswear and activewear industries. The initiative will focus on developing new programs and resources to support the growth of the sportswear and activewear industries, as well as to develop partnerships with other universities and organizations.
   - For more information, or to get involved, please visit the Sports and Wellness Initiative website at sportsandwellness.uoregon.edu.

5. Black Studies and Data Science Initiatives
   - The Black Studies and Data Science Initiatives are focused on developing new programs and resources to support the growth of Black studies and data science as disciplines. The initiatives will provide resources and support for students, faculty, and staff who are interested in developing new programs and resources in these areas.
   - For more information, or to get involved, please visit the Black Studies and Data Science Initiative websites at blackstudies.uoregon.edu and datascience.uoregon.edu.

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I believe that these initiatives represent an invitation to be involved in ongoing conversations about the future of each effort. And, during the upcoming academic year, we will be sharing more information about these initiatives and the progress that we are making on a regular basis. I encourage you to stay tuned for updates and to get involved in these important efforts.

Sincerely,

Lesley-Anne E. Madden
Office of the Provost