

JTUSHE Exhibits

From: David Peterson del Mar <delmard@pdx.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 6:23 AM
To: JTUSHE Exhibits
Subject: My thoughts on Under-Represented Students in Oregon Higher Education
Attachments: Who We Are.pdf

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Several under-represented students recently wrote about their experiences at Portland State in Change magazine, which is attached. Many more will appear this Spring in the Journal of Transformative Learning, which I would be happy to forward to the committee when it appears if you'd like.

What I glean from listening to such students (and I teach at least fifty under-represented students a term) is that although they would very much appreciate faculty who promptly respond to emails and grade assignments and who offer clear, engaging courses, what they most thirst for and require is to be seen and heard. They want and deserve our time and care.

As a faculty member who has taught at all three of Oregon's largest universities and in public universities since 1994, I have noticed that the faculty who provide students with that time and care are likely to have the least job security, the lowest pay, and the least desirable offices. At public universities, it literally pays to minimize your contact time with students, especially undergraduate students, especially students who need a lot of time and care. The ticket to job security and prestige is research, so the entire system is full of incentives to minimize the amount of time we devote to students. Very few of us are trained to teach, and we are seldom rewarded for teaching well.

Yours,

David Peterson del Mar

David Peterson del Mar

Professor, PSU

Co-Director, Yo Ghana <http://www.yoghana.org/> (We connect schools in Ghana and Oregon so that they can learn about each other first-hand)

Blog <http://davidpetersondelmar.blogspot.com/>

Books <http://davidpetersondelmar.com/>