



The Ballmer Institute for Children’s Behavioral Health at the University of Oregon will be the first of its kind, establishing an ecosystem of support for Oregon’s K-12 students’ behavioral and mental health powered by workforce preparation, evidence-based service delivery, and research and innovation.

The Ballmer Institute for Children’s Behavioral Health at the University of Oregon will address the behavioral health of Oregon’s children and adolescents through three actions:

*Preparing* a next-generation workforce of bachelor’s level practitioners, the *Child Behavioral Health Specialist*. The undergraduate program, to be launched in the fall of 2023 (pending state approval), will support student access with a \$100 Million endowment for college scholarships provided by Connie and Steve Ballmer. Child Behavioral Health Specialists will be prepared to enter the workforce immediately upon graduation having accumulated over 700 hours of applied training in evidence-based behavioral health promotion, prevention, and care strategies. Responding to the request by educators for new techniques and tools for meeting the urgent behavioral health promotion needs of their students, a three-course graduate level certification program for K-12 educators will be launched this fall, 2022.

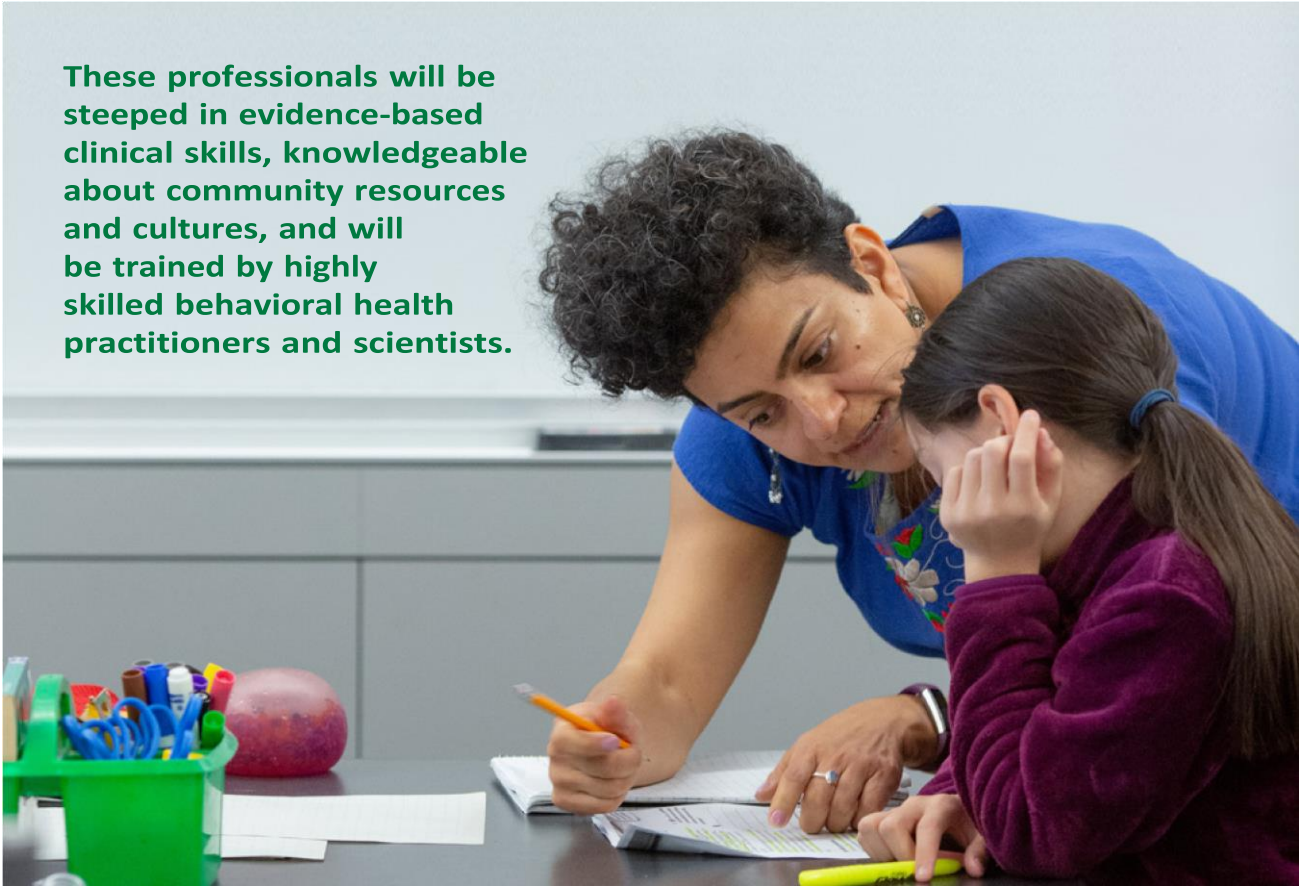
*Delivering* child behavioral health services to partner schools by expanding fair and full access to promotion and prevention services. Fifteen highly trained clinical professor faculty will be hired to design, deliver, and supervise child behavioral health trainees in schools. Students showing evidence of emerging behavioral health challenges on screening measures, or elevated risk, will receive prevention services when they are most effective, and least expensive – when children’s challenges are mild. Child Behavioral Health Specialists will provide group and individual preventive interventions to help children and youth reduce their risk for developing a mental health disorder.

*Creating* new technologies, products, and services through rigorous research efforts that ensures behavioral health and wellness programs work for *all* children and youth, including those from historically or persistently underserved communities. Ten new tenure-related faculty will be hired to provide national and international leadership in child behavioral health research and development. Capitalizing on the synergies between workforce development and service delivery, new products will be studied thoroughly and disseminated quickly to respond to the urgent needs of children, youth, families, and communities.

**“Mental health challenges in children, adolescents, and young adults are real and widespread. Even before the pandemic, an alarming number of young people struggled with feelings of helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide... The future wellbeing of our country depends on how we support and invest in the next generation.”**

Vivek H. Murthy, M.D., Surgeon General of the United States, December 7, 2021

**These professionals will be steeped in evidence-based clinical skills, knowledgeable about community resources and cultures, and will be trained by highly skilled behavioral health practitioners and scientists.**



**The Gift:** This effort is made possible by a lead gift of more than \$425 million from Connie and Steve Ballmer. The gift will:

- Permanently fund the hiring of 25 clinical and tenure track faculty,
- Endow the operations of the institute going forward,
- Provide scholarships to graduate a new and culturally and linguistically skilled workforce prepared to work in diverse communities,
- Support the purchase of the new UO Portland campus campus in NE Portland where the Ballmer Institute will be housed.

To learn more, visit

**The University of Oregon, higher education partners, community organizations and state government will integrate leading-edge research with community support for Oregon's young people, especially those in persistently underserved communities**

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