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Testimony by  
**Nagi G. Naganathan, Ph.D., ASME Fellow**  
**President**

Honorable Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and Members of the House Committee on Rules:

For the record, my name is Nagi Naganathan, and I have the honor of serving as the President of Oregon Institute of Technology, also known as Oregon Tech.

Thank you for holding a public hearing on HCR 25, which commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our university's founding.

Oregon Tech is our state's public polytechnic university, and in June 2021, we were honored to receive the official designation of "Oregon's Polytechnic University" through HB2472A.

Over the past three generations, Oregon Tech has grown from being a vocational rehab school for Veterans in a deactivated Marine Corps hospital to a vibrant public university with a statewide impact.

We are proud to serve Oregonians and the world through a residential campus in Klamath Falls, a Portland-Metro campus in Wilsonville, a Dental Hygiene educational site and clinic in Salem in partnership with Chemeketa Community College, the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center R&D campus in Scappoose, the Boeing Company program in Seattle at the Everett Manufacturing plant, and even further via our online programs.

We serve a student population of all ages, with about 80% coming from Oregon with diverse needs and lived experiences.

Oregon Tech is recognized as "Industry's University."

We take pride in preparing our students to be career ready on day one.

As the industry's university, our university is an innovation ecosystem that is a surrogate lab for industries.

When an industry has a problem, Oregon Tech is prepared to work closely with them on a solution.

Oregon Tech takes a progressive and innovative approach to intellectual property exchange that allows businesses and industry immediately benefit from Oregon Tech's R&D facilities and from our faculty and student expertise.

As you know, many of our graduates become professional engineers, and the professional engineers' creed does not just focus on making widgets; instead, it talks about making a difference in our society.

So, when I speak to our students, I often emphasize developing not just pride in what they do but also show the polytechnic swagger, demonstrating confidence while making a difference in the world and becoming leaders of tomorrow.

Therefore, as the Oregon Legislature works to tackle some of our state’s most pressing problems this legislative session and beyond, you can count on our university as a partner.

Our programs focus on industry’s needs, which align with the needs of our state, including your constituents.

For example, our students are trained to work as engineers, health professionals, and business professionals.

As graduates, they strive to improve the human condition whether they work in high-tech engineering fields or applied behavioral health or medical laboratory science or medical imaging.

As our state faces workforce shortages in these and other areas, we are committed to serving our community’s needs with graduates ready to hit the ground running on day one.

While Oregon Tech graduates continue to do well with more than 96% student success rates and by commanding the highest salaries and return on investment in Oregon, Oregon Tech is far from being complacent.

An example is the recent flipping of the student internship model in engineering.

We now have a collaborative laboratory agreement with Boeing Commercial Aviation to offer paid cooperative work experiences for our students, on campus, in Klamath Falls.

Through this agreement, our students will work on actual Boeing projects while being mentored by Boeing engineers and our faculty.

At the same time, they will continue to make progress in their academic programs so they can graduate in a timely fashion.

I strongly believe the world is changing rapidly, and so must higher education.

As one of Oregon’s seven public universities, Oregon Tech is dedicated to being agile and playing a transformative role in the lives of Oregonians.

Thank you for helping us celebrate 75 years of Oregon Tech.

As a first-generation student, it is an honor for me to serve as this institution’s President as we shape our university as a world-class polytechnic university to benefit and transform the lives of Oregonians over the next 75 years and beyond.

Thank you. ■