



**Oregon TECH**

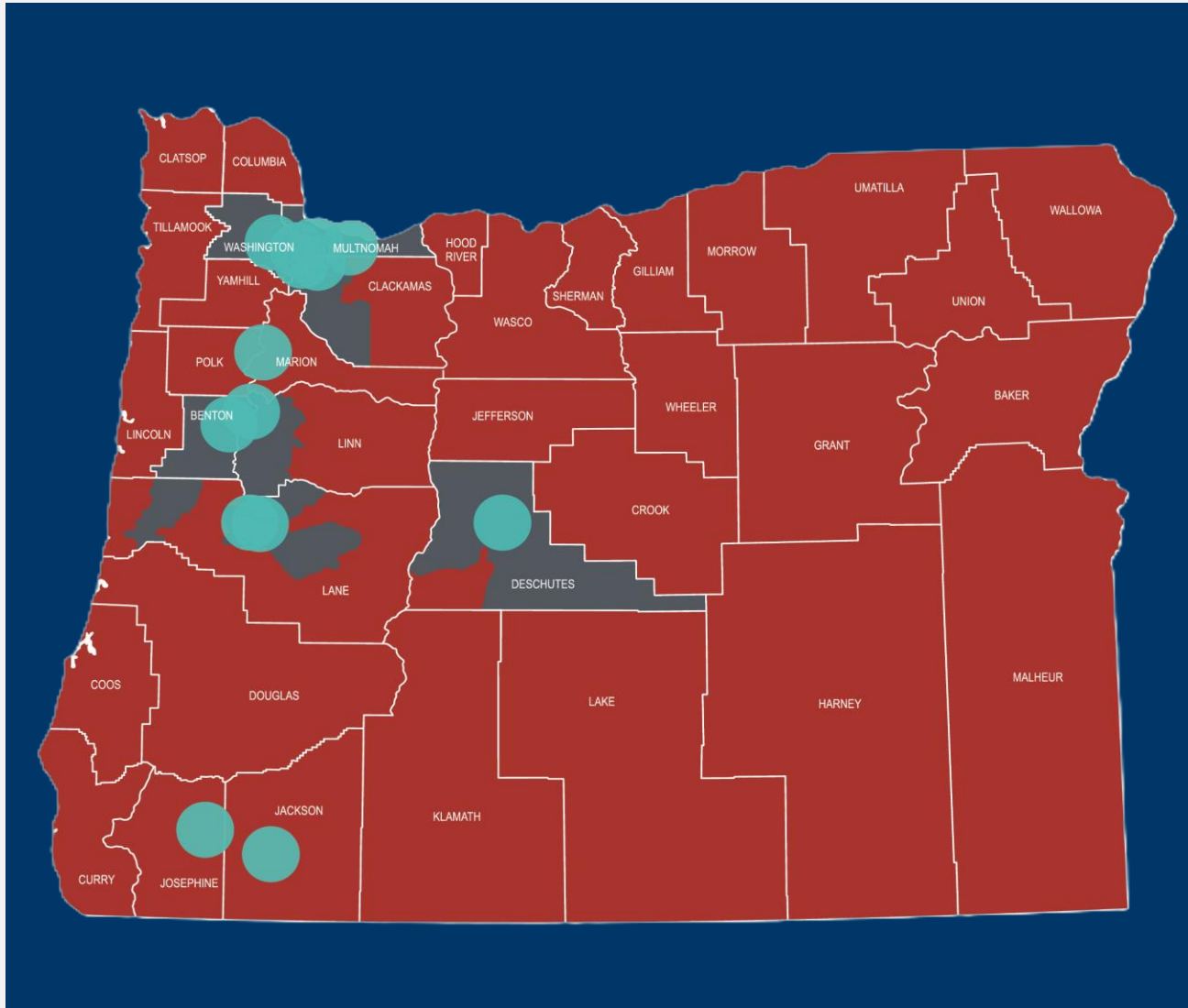
Oregon Institute of Technology

**Oregon's Polytechnic University**

***Transforming the Oregon Health Landscape:  
A Public Osteopathic College of Medicine in Oregon***

*April 17, 2025*

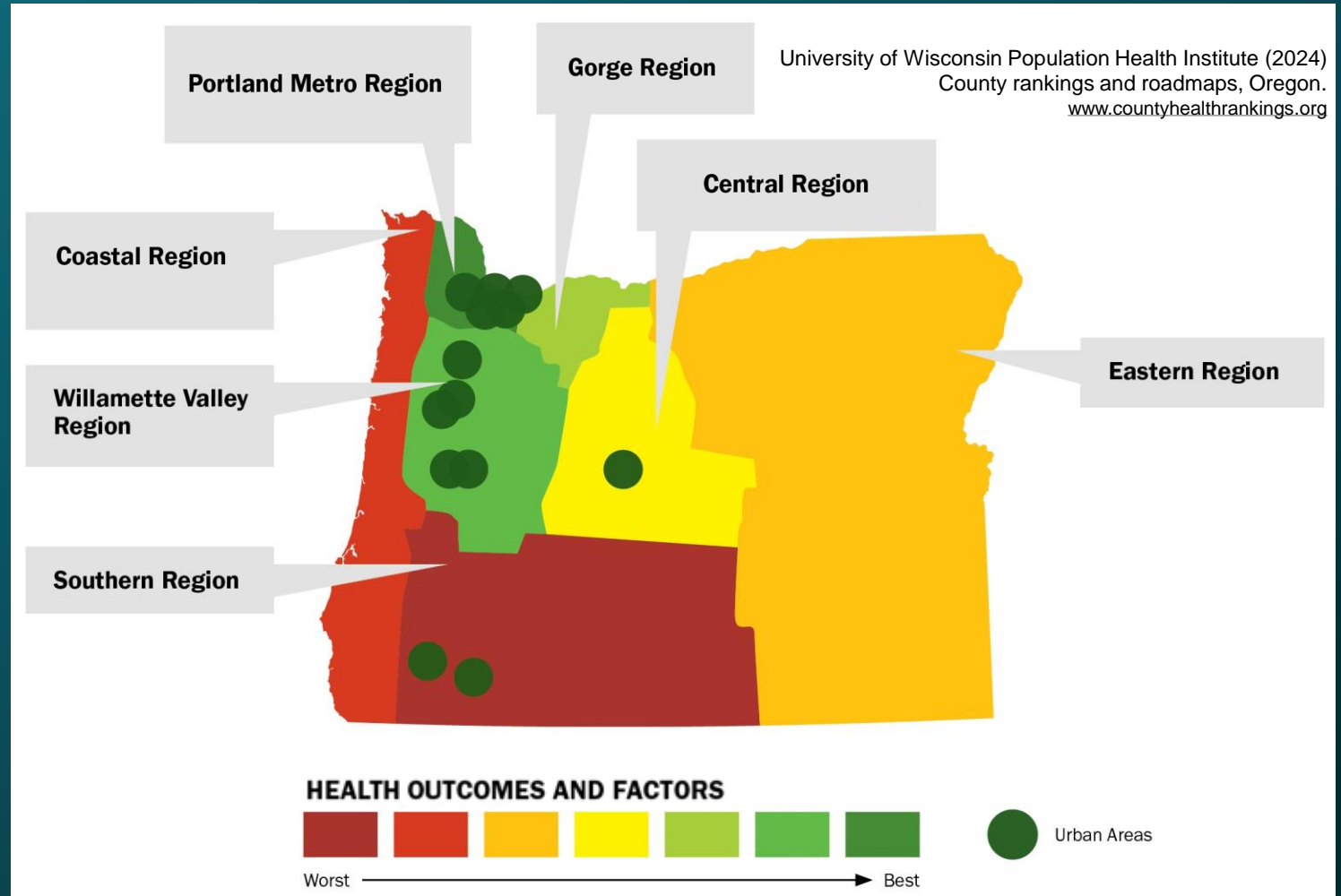
# THE PROBLEM: OREGON'S CURRENT & DETERIORATING HEALTH DESERT



**2.5 million**  
**Oregonians in crisis**  
**due to lack of access**  
**to healthcare.**

# HEALTH INEQUITY EXISTS BETWEEN RURAL & URBAN REGIONS

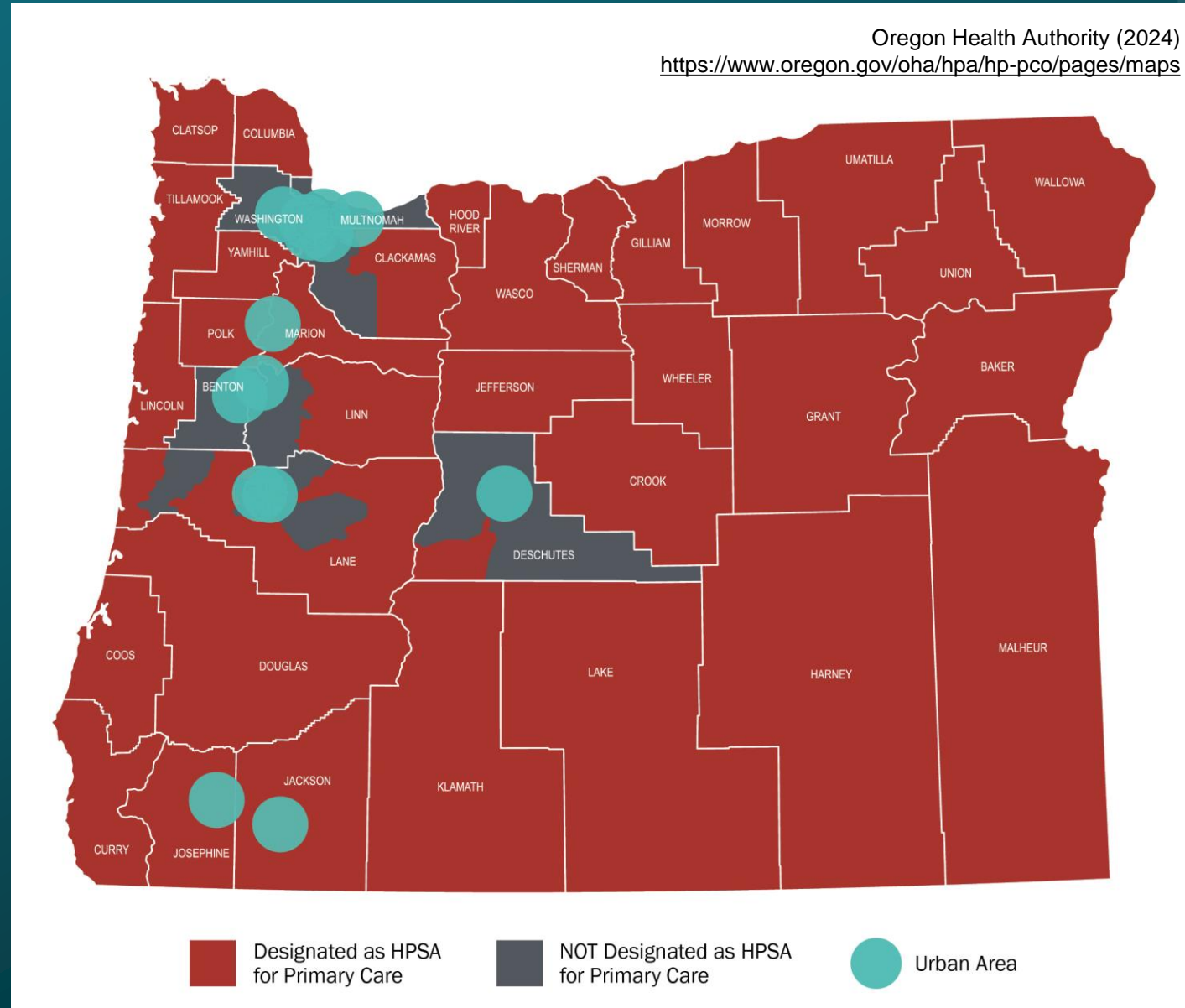
- The inequity becomes apparent when comparing health outcomes among regions. (Univ of Wisconsin, 2024)
- Specifically, rural areas fare much worse than their urban counterparts, demonstrating:
  - Lower life expectancies
  - Poorer quality of life
  - Premature death
  - Elevated suicide rates
- Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has established the goal of eliminating this health inequity within the state by 2030.





# HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS PERVADE THE STATE

- Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA's) are federal designations based upon the following criteria:
  - Population to Physician Ratio
  - Percent below 100% of Federal Poverty Level
  - Travel time to nearest source of care outside the HPSA designation
- Outside of the northern I-5 corridor, the vast majority of the state is currently designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas. (OHA, 2024)



# PRIMARY CARE SHORTAGE IMPACTING URBAN AREAS AS WELL

Recent article confirmed that **URBAN AREAS ARE ALSO FEELING** the impact of primary care physician shortages.

## Key Points Include:

- 54% of Portland-area voters find it harder to get an appointment with a primary care physician compared to 3 years ago.
- Fewer medical students are training in primary care in Oregon than the national average.
- Primary care physicians take on “heavy student debt but earn significantly less than specialists”.

APRIL 6/2025

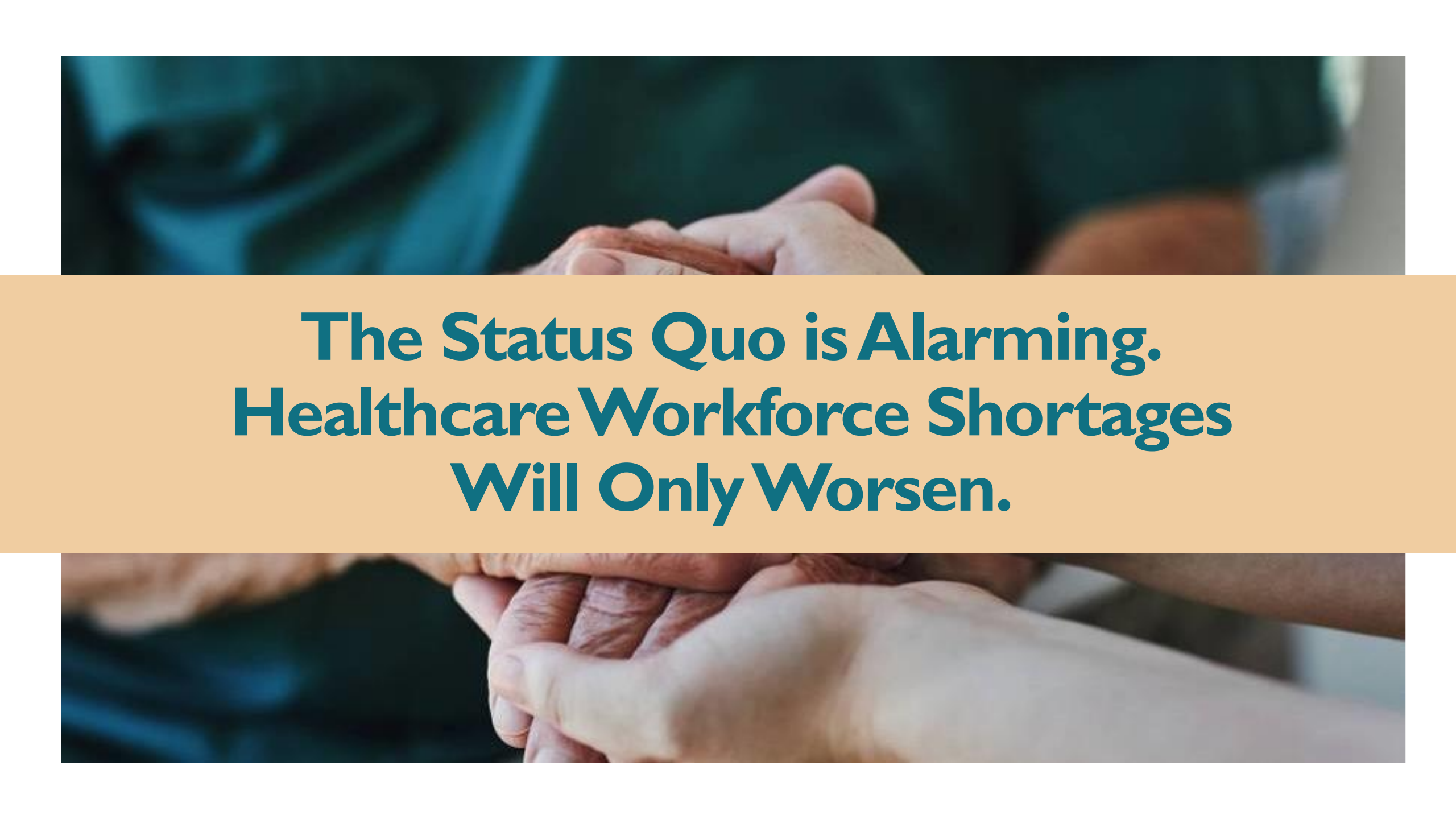


OREGONLIVE  
The Oregonian

Portland-area residents can't find doctors, and they say it's only getting worse

Kristin de Leon

“Experts say primary care access in Portland and across the state has been eroding for years”



**The Status Quo is Alarming.  
Healthcare Workforce Shortages  
Will Only Worsen.**

# PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE (AAMC, 2024)



## Attrition Due to Retirement

One-third (1/3) of physicians expected to retire within the next decade (trend of retiring earlier).



## Ongoing COVID Impact Upon Physician Demand

Two percent (2%) anticipated increase in demand each year as a result of new and long-COVID cases.



## Aging Population Requires Additional Care

Population growth and aging will result in an additional 18 million people in the country by 2036. This is expected to increase national demand for physicians by 13%.



## COVID-related Physician Burnout

One in four (25%) of physicians report planning to leave **primary care** within the next three years.

Projected shortage  
between 20,200 and 40,400  
primary care physicians  
by 2036





**Supply DOES NOT & WILL NOT Meet Demand.**





# THE SOLUTION: INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF OREGON PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS

- Oregon Health Authority recommends expanding medical education in rural areas.
- Research shows that medical providers who complete at least half their education and training in rural settings are 5 times more likely to establish their practices in rural areas.
- A new pipeline of primary care physicians who are trained in rural Oregon – and who are committed to working in rural settings upon licensure – would drastically reduce health challenges throughout the state by increasing access to care.
- One approach to successfully growing the number of primary care physicians across the state is **Osteopathic Medicine**.

Investment should  
focus on expanding  
access to education  
and training programs  
in rural areas.

- OHA Recommendation  
Oregon's Health Care Workforce  
Needs Assessment, 2025

# OSTEOPATHIC SCHOOLS ARE LEADING THE WAY IN PRIMARY CARE

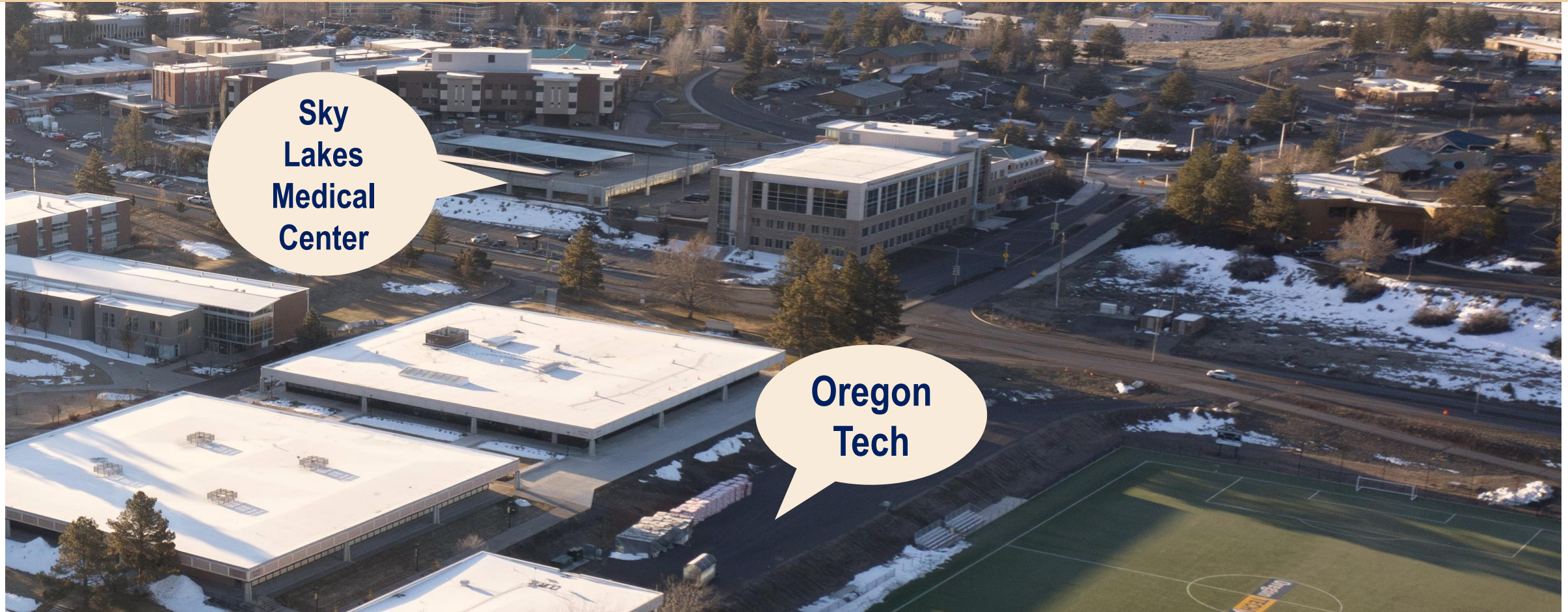
- U.S. News & World Report recently evaluated 168 medical schools, tracking graduates from 2015 to 2017.
- The 10 schools with the highest numbers of graduates in primary care are all osteopathic medical schools, with between 41% and 47% of graduates choosing primary care instead of specialization. This statistic is between 11% and 14% for allopathic medical schools.
- Surveys show, that 10 years after graduation, Osteopathic Physicians continue to practice primary care.
- This commitment to primary care will be crucial to addressing the health crisis in Oregon.



<https://premium.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-medical-schools/primary-care-rankings>



# Oregon Tech is Uniquely Positioned to Transform Oregon's Health Landscape Through a New Osteopathic College of Medicine



Sky  
Lakes  
Medical  
Center

Oregon  
Tech



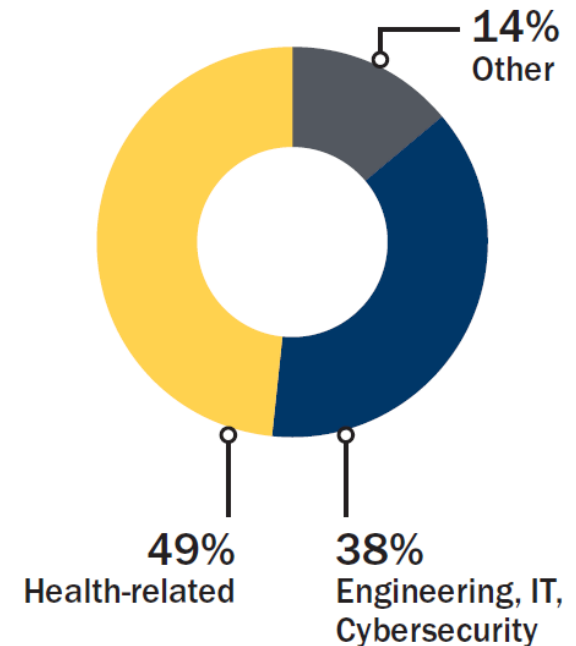
# WHY OREGON TECH? HANDS ON LEARNING IN ALLIED HEALTH

- Located in the rural Southern Region, strategically placing a public, medical school on the Klamath Falls campus would benefit not only the region, but all rural regions across the state.
- A proven track-record - over 50 years - offering medically-based, Allied Health curricula will help Oregon Tech launch accelerated graduation options (3 years Vs. 4 years), which would:



- Expedite the entry of primary care physicians into the health care workforce.
- Reduce the burden of medical school debt for students, as the only public Osteopathic Medical School in the state.

OREGON TECH GRADUATES



# A Legacy of Healing

- World War II Veterans came to Klamath Falls to heal.
- Tech-infused, practice-oriented education in health professions for over 50 years.
- Existing infrastructure
  - State of the art simulation centers at the Martha Anne Dow Center for Health Professions.
  - Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in Biohealth & Biomedical Sciences.
  - Strong partnership with Sky Lakes Medical Center enables shared medical education space.
- Ongoing Partnership with OHSU – 3 Joint Programs:



Doctorate in Physical Therapy  
(Doctoral)

Medical Laboratory Science  
(BS)

Emergency Medical Services  
(AAS & BS)

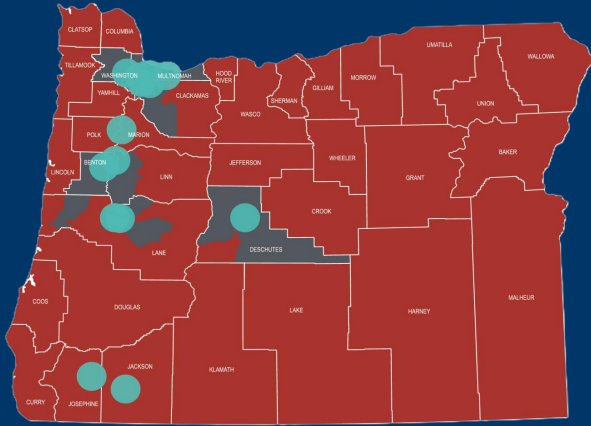


# NEXT STEPS

- Actively pursue a Comprehensive Planning Study to establish:
  - Financial and operating models.
  - Implementation workplan and timeline.
  - Compelling business plan and economic sustainability.
- Implement marketing campaign.
- Secure philanthropic support.
- Your support is the key to accelerating our journey towards success.



## Problem:



**2.5 million  
Oregonians in crisis  
due to lack of access  
to healthcare.**

***We are committed to doing the work today  
for the Oregon of tomorrow.***

## Solution:



**Rapidly increase the  
number of primary  
care physicians  
educated & trained in  
the state.**

## Proposal:

**A New Public  
Osteopathic  
Medical School  
at Oregon Tech.**

**Technology &  
AI-Infused Curriculum.**

**Accelerated  
Graduation Options.**