



The Honorable Members of the Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Honorable Senators,

I write today in strong support of the Senate Joint Resolution honoring the late Dr. Phil Creighton, President Emeritus of Pacific University. Dr. Creighton's tenure as President of Pacific University from 2003 to 2009 was a period of extraordinary transformation that not only reshaped our institution but also left an indelible mark on the countless students, faculty, and alumni who had the privilege of knowing him.

Under his visionary leadership, Pacific University grew from a small liberal arts college into one of the region's top comprehensive universities. His strategic foresight led to the construction of six new buildings, the opening of a new athletic complex in 2008 that reinvigorated Boxer athletics, and one of the most prosperous financial periods in Pacific's history. His commitment to growth and opportunity extended beyond the Forest Grove campus with the establishment of the Hillsboro Campus in 2006, a center for graduate and professional programs in health sciences and business. In recognition of his transformative leadership, the original building of the Hillsboro Campus was named Creighton Hall in 2009, ensuring his legacy would endure.

Dr. Creighton was more than just an accomplished administrator—he was a leader who truly saw people. His ability to remember the names and faces of those he met was legendary, reflecting his deep care and commitment to students, faculty, and staff. Affectionately known as “Dr. Phil,” he was a beloved figure, not only for his accomplishments but for the kindness, wisdom, and encouragement he extended to all. Students and alumni, in particular, adored him, recognizing in him a leader who genuinely invested in their success and well-being.

On a personal level, Dr. Creighton's mentorship profoundly influenced my career. It was under his leadership that I was honored to be appointed Dean of Optometry at Pacific University—an opportunity that set me on the path to where I stand today as President. His guidance and belief in my abilities gave me the confidence to grow as a leader, and his advice to always strive to be a “transformative” leader continues to shape the way I serve Pacific today. His impact is ever-present in the way I approach leadership, not just as a position of responsibility, but as an opportunity to uplift and inspire those around me, just as he did.



Dr. Creighton's influence extended far beyond his presidency; it continues to live on in the hearts and minds of the Pacific community. He uplifted Pacific University, and in doing so, he uplifted all of us who had the honor of knowing him. It is with deep admiration and gratitude that I urge the passage of this resolution to honor his extraordinary contributions to higher education and to the countless lives he touched.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Coyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Coyle, OD, MS, FAAO

President