

February 17, 2025

Oregon Legislative Assembly
900 Court Street NE, S-101
Salem, Oregon 97301-4065

Dear members of the eighty-third Oregon Legislative Assembly:

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 7. My name is Dr. John S. Miller III. I worked with Dr. Phil Creighton as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at both Eastern Oregon University and Pacific University. My wife Linda and I have known Phil and Phil's wife Leigh since 2002 and remain close friends.

While the Senate Resolution focuses on Phil's leadership at Pacific, his Presidency at Eastern Oregon was also transformational. At Eastern Phil focused on strengthening Eastern's connection to place bound students in Eastern Oregon, and also place bound students in rural locations across Oregon. During Phil's tenure at Eastern, Eastern collaborated with community colleges in Eastern Oregon (Blue Mountain, Treasure Valley and Cascade) and Western Oregon (Portland, Chemeketa, Southwestern and Clackamas) through completion degree programs delivered by Eastern's Division of Distance Education.

Phil put into action Eastern's vision as "Oregon's Rural University" reaching out statewide to place bound students in rural Oregon. Likewise, Phil worked with the School of Nursing at OHSU and Oregon State University's College of Agriculture to host their faculty and students and offer their degree programs on the Eastern campus in La Grande. Phil also collaborated with the President of OHSU to access State and Federal funding to renovate and enlarge Eastern's science building.

When Phil moved to Pacific University in 1999 he was prepared to work closely with local governments, higher education institutions and the private sector to strengthen Pacific University as it headed into the 21st century. Examples of this are Pacific's Health Professions Campus in Hillsboro developed in collaboration with the City of Hillsboro, Tuality Hospital (Now OHSU Medical Center), Portland Community College, Washington County, local and congressional political leadership and the private sector. The Hillsboro campus also included an Intermodal transit facility and now includes Pacific's Master of Business Administration Program.

With the City of Forest Grove Phil developed the Lincoln Park sports complex, providing sports venues for Pacific sports and the Forest Grove community. In addition, Lincoln Park also allowed Pacific to grow its athletic programs where now 40 percent of all students, men and women, participate in intercollegiate athletics.

Looking back, I think you can see Phil Creighton was a visionary leader who led two Oregon universities, one public and one private, into the 21st century. Thank you again for this opportunity to write in support and celebration of Dr. Phil Creighton's contribution to higher education in Oregon.

Sincerely,

John S. Miller III, Ph.D.
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