



Oregon 4-H Foundation

Oregon 4-H Foundation
4238 SW Research Way
Corvallis, Oregon 97333-4015

Phone: 541-737-7420

Email: Oregon4Hfoundation.org

April 25, 2025

Senator Janeen Sollman
Representative Ricki Ruiz
Co-Chairs, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon State University Extension Funding

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

On behalf of Oregon 4-H Foundation Trustees, I would like to thank you for considering continued full investment in OSU Extension Service, which includes the 4-H Youth Development program.

4-H is a place where Oregon kids can meet friends, experience belonging, explore new passions and interests, and gain valuable life skills for a thriving future. Backed by research-based experiential learning, 4-H focuses on lifelong learning (Head), positive relationships (Heart), community service (Hands), and healthy living (Health).

Across Oregon, 4-H serves more than 24,000 young people who "learn by doing" in more than 130 different project areas ranging from animal science to natural resources to STEM fields and the arts. This happens in club-based programs, in- and after- school activities, day and overnight camps and other settings. Oregon 4-H also collaborates with other OSU Extension youth-serving programs, collectively reaching close to 90,000 youth annually.

National research shows that 4-H'ers are 4X more likely to make a positive contribution to their communities, show strong work readiness skills and excel across a range of outcome measures. In Oregon, 58% of 4-H'ers say 4-H has helped them identify things they are good at, and 57% say they would like to study science after high school.

We encourage your support for \$207.2 million in operational funding for the OSU Statewides, which includes OSU Extension. This investment includes a \$17.5M increase for full continued service level funding to sustain core mission programs and services like 4-H, so the OSU Statewides can continue their essential work in Oregon.

The State's investment in OSU Extension provides for placement of youth development professionals throughout Oregon who deliver 4-H programming that is innovative and tailored to local needs and who support thousands of volunteers.

The Oregon 4-H Foundation operates in partnership with OSU. Our mission is to advance the Oregon 4-H Youth Development Program through acquisition of resources and developing partnerships to expand outreach, and maximizing stewardship of resources, grants, and awards.

We recognize you must make difficult decisions, and encourage you to consider the lasting impact of our collective support. Your investment helps OSU Extension deliver programs that empower Oregon youth to learn today and lead for a lifetime, building a generation that's beyond ready for what comes next.

Sincerely,

Sue Densmore, President

Trustees

Sue Densmore, President
Griffin Zollner, Vice President
Nolan Sundberg, Treasurer
Colin Pyle, Secretary
Lori Elkins, Past President
Sterling Allen, Trustee
Jennifer Beathe, Trustee
Ellen Bradley, Trustee
Stacie Lieuallen, Trustee
Gary Roth, Trustee
Ken Austin, Trustee
Jeanne Carver, Trustee
Shannon Austin, Trustee
Dinah Nicholson, Trustee
Virginia Bourdeau, Trustee

Leonard Aplet, Emeritus
Ann Gosch, Emeritus
Blanch Harper, Emeritus
Norbert Hartmann, Emeritus
Cathy Holland, Emeritus
Jackie Hurl, Emeritus
Janet May, Emeritus
John Nyberg, Emeritus
Carmen Phillips, Emeritus
Ed Zollner, Emeritus

Katherine Hauser, Ex-Officio
Andrea Leao, Ex-Officio
Melinda Garcia, Ex-Officio
Cathy Haas, Ex-Officio
Kristopher Elliott, Ex-Officio
Nicole Schrock, Ex-Officio
Erin Walsh, Ex-Officio