

Dear Senate President Wagner, Speaker Fahey, and Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to urge your full support for Oregon State University's STEM Learning and Research Center capital project — a project that will have a profound impact on Oregon's future workforce, innovation economy, and educational excellence.

This Center is essential to preparing the next generation of Oregon's leaders — engineers, scientists, educators, entrepreneurs, and more. It will ensure that every OSU student, regardless of major, gains access to a modern, hands-on science education. It will also provide critical research facilities in fields that are central to Oregon's economic development, including clean energy, semiconductors, advanced materials, and technology innovation.

I am a proud alumna/alumnus of Oregon State University, graduating in 2008 with BS degrees in Math, Physics, and Computational Physics. The foundational science education I received at OSU laid the groundwork for my MS in Computer Science and PhD in Applied Math at Cornell University and career as an entrepreneur. My work at OSU was the foundation of my first startup, SigOpt, which raised \$17M in VC funding and sold to Intel in 2020 where I led a team that had many other Oregon State STEM grads as VP of AI and HPC for Supercomputing. I continue to build on that strong foundation from OSU in my second startup, Distributional, which has raised \$30M in VC funding and employs several people in Oregon as part of a worldwide team of 30. I wouldn't be where I am today without OSU and the strong STEM education I received there.

In my recent conversations with OSU leaders, I have been inspired by the way STEM education is evolving. Experiential, small-group learning is no longer an experiment — it is a proven model for increasing student success. The STEM Learning and Research Center will bring these best practices to all introductory physics courses and beyond, ensuring students are not just learning facts but building the skills to drive Oregon's future industries.

The need for this project is urgent. OSU's enrollment in STEM fields continues to rise. Every year, students complete over 300,000 math and science credit hours — a critical foundation for their success in any career. This Center will ensure they learn in spaces designed for collaboration, problem-solving, and real-world application.

Oregon's future depends on investments like this — investments that prepare our students to lead, innovate, and thrive in an increasingly complex world. The STEM Learning and Research Center is not just a project for OSU. It is an investment in Oregon's future workforce, economy, and communities.

Please support this vital project.

Sincerely,  
Scott Clark, OSU class of 2008