



May 3, 2018

Bend City Council  
710 NW Wall Street  
Bend, OR 97703

Mayor Roats and council members:

This letter is in support of the OSU-Cascades Master Plan application. The presence and growth of OSU-Cascades is critical to the health of our city and the Central Oregon region. It has forged partnerships, built a home-grown workforce and elevated our ability to attract and retain a diverse economy. They have shown themselves to be both responsible and responsive to the region, and we are confident they will continue to do so.

Development of this campus is critical to students in Bend and our region. OSU-Cascades draws 70 % of its students primarily from Central Oregon. The new campus academic building recently funded with state and local dollars will enable OSU-C to meet the capacity needs from Central Oregon in the near future, but the growing workforce demand in this region will quickly grow beyond.

The campus Master Plan is thoughtful and incremental. It has integrated public input to develop transportation, housing and academic solutions that are uniquely suited to its neighborhood, our city and our region. One of the most exciting aspects of this master plan is the inclusion of an Innovation Center, which is the capstone of the City of Bend's Innovation District. This public/private venture is where investments will be made in co-located businesses, research and other unique amenities that will enhance and diversify our economy, while generating significant revenue for our city.

The long-term build out of the university is a game-changer for Bend and the region's economic health. Bend and Central Oregon employers need more graduates to fill the growing industries of high tech, biosciences, healthcare, manufacturing, engineering, professional services and other industry sectors. We urge council to approve the OSU-Cascades Master Plan application.

Sincerely,

Katy Brooks  
CEO/President