

Good afternoon, Co-chairs Girod and Read, and members of the committee,

My name is Alyssa Deardorff. I am a junior in Renewable Energy Engineering at Oregon Tech.

I am here today to urge your support of Oregon Tech's request for Phase 1 of the Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology/Cornett Renovation Project, and all the other university projects that you have heard about today.

I am getting a great education at Oregon Tech. The faculty and staff are supporting me in my pursuit of a rigorous engineering degree, while I am the lead student government officer at the Wilsonville campus, Society of Women Engineers Vice President, a Student Ambassador, and Engineering Honor Society member. I have been fortunate enough to have been part of an Oregon Tech affiliated effort called Solar Hope that spends 5 weeks in Tanzania installing solar panels every summer at schools and medical clinics which never had electricity. This summer I'll be at NASA Ames in the Aeronautics Academy as a Research Associate.

I want to stress to you today how important it is for students to have well-equipped facilities and labs so we can hit the ground running when we graduate. Oregon Tech takes pride in the ability of its students and graduates to engage in experiential learning, internships, industry-support senior and graduate projects and applied research so we are prepared for employment and a fulfilling career when we graduate. That's why Oregon Tech ranked in a new report among the top two universities in the state for return on investment for its students, which was mentioned on OPB earlier this week.

I have been a student in Klamath Falls and Wilsonville. I can tell you that the Cornett building in Klamath Falls is environmentally unsafe, not ADA accessible, confusing to navigate and evacuate, and energy inefficient. When I toured the campus with my mom, a physical therapist, she commented on the lack of accessibility and safety of the building, and wondered if it was safe for student learning.

The Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology / Cornett Renovation project has been divided into three phases so that Oregon Tech can continue to operate mechanical, renewable energy, and other engineering programs while the Cornett building is being expanded and renovated. We will move the Wind Tunnel, Tensile Strength Testing Machine, and Welding Labs and continue to deliver important student programs throughout the project.

Oregon Tech graduates are well known by industry to be ready to work on Day 1. That has a lot to do with making sure we're trained on the same equipment and in a similar safe working environment that we will face in the workforce. Renovating Cornett Hall has positive implications for the education and training of Oregon Tech students for decades to come.

I urge your support for this top priority project for Oregon Tech students as it will make a significant difference for students and Oregon.

Thank you.