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April 4, 2014

Honorable John A. Kitzhaber, MD  
Governor, State of Oregon  
State Capitol Building  
900 Court Street NE, 160  
Salem, OR 9730

Mr. Matthew W. Donegan, Chair  
Oregon State Board of Higher Education  
c/o OUS Chancellor's Office  
P.O. Box 751  
Portland, Oregon 97207-0751

Dear Governor Kitzhaber, Chair Donegan, and Members of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education:

In accordance with ORS 352-076, I am writing to seek the endorsement of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) for the Oregon Institute of Technology to become a university with a governing board. As you will see from the salutation, I also am simultaneously notifying Governor Kitzhaber of my intention for the Oregon Institute of Technology to become a university with a governing board, with the same responsibilities and authorities of university governing boards described in Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 352.

We are certain that current SBHE leadership has prepared Oregon Tech well for leadership of a governing board. We look forward to the opportunity afforded by the SBHE, the Oregon Legislature, and the Governor to take the next step in Oregon Tech's growth and development as the Pacific Northwest's only polytechnic university. Our focus on economic development and polytechnic degrees will serve Oregonians extremely well in the coming decades, and we feel that an Oregon Tech governing board will help us serve Oregonians through increased opportunities, recognition, and philanthropy in the years to come.

Oregon Tech conducted a thorough community-engagement process with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the university. We have reviewed many governance options with our campus communities, in community forums, meetings with faculty, staff, and students, outreach to our businesses and community partners and alumni, an informational website, and a survey of constituency groups. As a result of those reviews, I feel a great consensus for the proposed governance choice—that of an independent board for Oregon Tech—and an upwelling of pride and support from all of our

***Hands-on Education for Real-World Achievement***



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constituents to help Oregon Tech be successful as we grow to become a world-class polytechnic university for Oregon.

In addition, under the SBHE's and Chancellor's Office guidance, we have conducted a thorough fiscal analysis, including the cost of supporting a board, and are confident that the change in governance will help us grow and prosper. We also have revised our strategic and academic plans and are confident that we can meet our enrollment goals and Achievement Compact outcomes over the next 10 years.

The Oregon Tech Business Plan portrays a public polytechnic university with huge potential to contribute to 40-40-20 in STEM and high-demand allied-health degrees for Oregon and its students. Our leadership in applied science and technology education, innovative, industry-relevant educational programs, dual credit, reverse transfer, career pathways, and recently being named a STEM Hub for Oregon are stellar examples that Oregon Tech is emerging as a leader across all sectors of Oregon's 40-40-20 aspirations. Oregon Tech will benefit greatly from having deeply committed, knowledgeable leaders on a governing board that will focus on our unique institutional mission, undergraduate and applied-graduate student success, and education of Oregonians.

On behalf of all of the Oregon Tech communities, please accept my sincerest thanks for the guidance and preparation that have brought us to this moment in Oregon Tech's history. I look forward to working with the current and future State Board of Higher Education and the Chancellor's Office in the transition process over the coming months. If I can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. G. Maples".

Christopher G. Maples  
President, Oregon Tech