

2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1. Capital Budget

Support the Governor's Capital Construction budget:

- Forest Science Building -- \$30 million Article XI-G bonds matched by \$30 million in philanthropic funds
- Marine Studies Initiative -- \$25 million Article XI-G bonds, matched by \$25 million in philanthropic funds and \$15 million in programmatic funds
- Deferred Maintenance -- \$72 million (shared by all seven campuses based on square footage)

2. Unified Seven-University Operating Budget

All seven universities are seeking a unified budget that would retain the same level of support for students as was included in the budget passed during the 2007 legislative session: **\$755 million** for the biennium. The Governor's recommended budget includes **\$624 million** which, once structural costs and inflationary factors are considered, would not enable any of the strategic investments sought by OSU and the six other public universities to increase graduation rates.

Key elements in the budget include:

- Continuing to fund the "tuition buy-down" created last session by the legislature, while avoiding similar approaches in future investments. (Status: \$62 million included in the Governor's recommended budget.)
- Increased funding and programmatic improvements in the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) targeted for low-income students who continue to achieve academic success throughout the four years of their post-secondary education. (Status: proposed changes in OOG may be subject to legislative action.)
- Increased resources for academic support services aimed at increasing graduation rates. (Status: Not specified in the Governor's Budget.)
- Strategic state funding initiatives to increase degrees in graduate and doctoral programs and to foster university-industry research collaborations, new spin outs and patent and licensing revenue. (Status: Not specified in the Governor's Budget.)

3. Statewide Public Service Programs

The OSU Board of Trustees has endorsed **\$16 million in new programs** for the OSU Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station, and Forest Research Laboratory in an effort to enable these programs to sustain rural communities and capture economic growth possibilities associated with natural resources across the entire state. Funding would increase the proportion of new funding flowing to the Forest Research Laboratory, while enabling targeted new investments in Extension and the Agricultural Experiment Station. (Status: Governor's budget proposes a 3.3 percent increase, which would result in approximately a \$3 million reduction for these programs due to structural costs and inflationary factors.)

4. Key Programmatic Initiatives

- **Technical "Fix" bill.** The Senate Education Committee will consider a bill that will include both technical fixes and key policy decisions raised or unresolved with the passage of legislation in 2013 and 2014 that created university governing boards, eliminated the State Board of Higher Education and Oregon University System, and restructured the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). (Status: the Bill is currently in the drafting process.)
- **Renewal of the University Venture Development Fund (UVDF) Tax Credit.** (Status: included in the Governor's recommended budget.)

- **Natural Resource Transformative Technology Grant Program:** \$5 million. Focusing on the forestry and agricultural sectors, funding for wood and food innovation and commercialization. (Status: Lottery funding included in the Governor’s recommended budget. It remains to be determined whether and how these funds will be ear-marked for specific projects.)
- **Regional Solutions Investments in Central Oregon** designed to address transportation needs and to create a regional business accelerator: \$2 million. (Status: included in the Governor’s recommended budget.)
- **ETIC Sustaining funds.** (Status: \$24 million included in the Governor’s recommended budget.)
- Recover funding for **Title IX scholarships.** (Status: \$11.4 million in “Sports Action Lottery” eliminated and transferred to OOG in the Governor’s recommended budget.) These scholarships support both student athletes and graduate students at all seven public universities.
- Lottery funding for the **Oregon Innovation Council.** (Status: \$29.35 million included in the Governor’s recommended budget, an increase of over 50 percent from the 2013-15 biennium. Included in this number is funding for Oregon’s three signature research centers, with portions of that funding held aside for upstream commercialization gap funding.)
 - Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (**ONAMI**): \$6.1 million + \$2 million (gap funding), for a total of \$8.1 million, an increase of over 30% of 2013-15.
 - Built Environment and Sustainable Technologies Center (**BEST**): \$6.1 million + \$1.5 million (gap funding), for a total of \$7.6 million, an increase of nearly 27% from 2013-15.
 - Oregon Translational Research and Development Institute (**OTRADI**): \$3.75 million + \$1 million (gap funding), for a total of \$4.75 million, an increase of nearly 140% from 2013-15.
- **Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (RAIN):** (Status: \$2 million included in the Governor’s recommended budget, divided evenly between a new innovation package and in the Regional Solutions budget.
- **Matching Fund and Technical Assistance.** (Status: Governor’s recommended budget includes a \$500,000 pool aimed at providing matching fund and technical assistance around federal Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) and Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants.
- **Fermentation** funding. (Status: Draft legislation seeking transfer of a portion of alcohol container tax to support a fermentation board.)