Acknowledgements
This report was prepared with data and analysis compiled by ECONorthwest of Portland, Ore., on behalf of Oregon State University, the Oregon State University Alumni Association and the Oregon State University Foundation.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR TO RECEIVE COPIES OF THIS REPORT, PLEASE CONTACT:
Oregon State University
Division of University Relations and Marketing
634 Kerr Administration Building
Corvallis, OR 97331
541-737-4875
Impact.
It’s a word we use regularly to describe the work that goes on at Oregon State University. Our impact is specific and measurable. It is wide-ranging as well as personal. And it is deeply ingrained into our culture. For more than 140 years, we have made a positive and significant difference across this state on what’s most important for Oregonians.

At Oregon State, we have an unwavering commitment to excellence: in our academic classrooms and laboratories where faculty teaching inspires students to expand their minds and develop the knowledge to achieve their goals; in cutting-edge research; and through Extension Service outreach and engagement in communities throughout Oregon.

And while we are proud and deeply committed to serve as Oregon’s land grant university, OSU’s impact reaches well beyond Oregon. Our contribution and impact extend across the U.S. and throughout the world and range from the microscopic innovation of nanoscience to the vast universe within our oceans.

Detailed within these pages are specific measurements — and many narrative examples — of Oregon State University’s impact.

Yet, measuring the recent and current impact of the university is not nearly enough.

Today, we reaffirm and expand our commitment to the future:

▶ To further engage OSU in vibrant, innovative and impactful industry research and partnerships to propel the economy, retain employment and create new businesses and jobs.
▶ To broaden the contributions of OSU’s Extension Service throughout the state by increasingly serving the specific needs of Oregon’s urban and rural communities.
▶ To expand teaching, research and promotion of public health initiatives that improve quality of life by expanding focus on preventative care, healthy lifestyle habits, exercise and improved nutrition.
▶ To invest in strategic leadership, engagement, programs and commitments that improve the economy and quality of life in the Portland area.
▶ To enhance the wise use and protection of natural resources to ensure their vital sustainability for generations to come.

I hope you enjoy this report of the impacts our faculty, students and alumni are making in the economy, in communities and in people’s lives.

Edward J. Ray
President
Oregon State University
Oregon State University is committed to helping improve the future of Oregon, the nation and the world. This report outlines five strategic initiatives the university will pursue to further advance the health of our economy, the public and our planet.

**LOCAL OUTREACH**

OSU Extension Service faculty — along with nearly 9,000 volunteers — annually reach 2.3 million Oregonians of all ages in both urban and rural communities through education programs and experiential learning such as Master Gardeners and 4-H. Other important OSU Extension Service initiatives include efforts to reduce food insecurity and hunger; working with physicians and care providers to address obesity among children in rural communities; and aiding economic development in coastal communities.

**RESEARCH**

Through innovation, discovery and application, Oregon State research is helping to create new jobs and businesses; improve public health; and ensure the wise use and protection of natural resources. Oregon State received $261.7 million in research funding in 2011, more than all other public universities in the state combined. Oregon State also started the current fiscal year with a record $42 million in research support in a single month, reinforcing the continued growth of its research programs.

**GLOBAL IMPACT**

Oregon State’s contributions in education, research and community engagement reach into each of the state’s 36 counties — and throughout the nation and world. The university also makes a significant economic impact statewide — an estimated $1.932 billion in 2011. When totaled with the worldwide societal benefits of OSU research, Oregon State’s impact exceeds $2 billion.

**CAMPAIGN FOR OSU**

Oregon State’s progress toward the $850 million goal for the Campaign for OSU. This first-ever major philanthropic effort for Oregon State raised $112.3 million in fiscal year 2011.

**ALUMNI**

Oregon State’s 170,000 alumni excel in the workplace, earning substantially more than the national average and at mid-career than alumni of other Oregon institutions. And they give back to their communities, with 40 percent serving on boards of local organizations and/or volunteering time in community service.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- **$2.06 billion**
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$2.06 BILLION AND GROWING
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY’S STATEWIDE ECONOMIC IMPACT

$1.932 BILLION

As measured in late 2011 and early 2012 by the economic consulting firm ECONorthwest, Oregon State’s overall statewide and global impact totals almost $2.06 billion, an increase of more than $500 million since the last measurement in 2006.

How we measured
A customary way to measure impact is to track an institution’s spending for operations, payroll and capital construction. The findings in this report measure Oregon State’s economic impact, not only near campus in Linn and Benton counties, but statewide. It is an expanding footprint, due in large part to the university’s research programs, many Experiment Stations and Extension presence in all 36 counties, as well as a student body that draws the best and brightest from all corners of Oregon. This report depicts a wave of increasing direct economic benefit and job creation, in addition to many indirect benefits, despite difficult economic conditions. In fact, Oregon State’s baseline expenditures increased 30 percent, from $836 million in fiscal year 2005 to $1.09 billion last year. As measured in late 2011 and early 2012 by the economic consulting firm ECONorthwest, Oregon State’s overall statewide impact totals $1.932 billion, an increase of more than $500 million since the last measurement in 2006.

Spending’s ripple effect
The economic impact of Oregon State’s operations, including the purchase of goods and services and payroll, is far reaching. For example, $33 million — or 17 percent — of goods and services were purchased in Benton and Linn counties. Another $89 million in goods and services were purchased statewide.

Meanwhile, in 2011 Oregon State spent an additional $133 million on capital equipment and completion of several major campus construction projects. Most of those expenditures — about $100 million — were with architectural and engineering firms, contractors and materials and equipment suppliers from the Portland area. In all, the impact of Oregon State’s capital and construction spending in 2011 created 553 new jobs in Oregon. Meanwhile, the university estimates that OSU-Cascades’ faculty and staff contributed more than $2 million to the Central Oregon economy.

Spending by Oregon State students is also significant. In 2011, the nearly 24,000 students enrolled at Oregon State’s Corvallis and Bend campuses spent a total of $250 million — an annual average of $10,900 per student. This total does not include the cost of tuition, other student expenditures on campus, or campus housing, as that data is included elsewhere in ECONorthwest’s analysis.

Oregon State’s economic impact in communities and statewide extends beyond its own spending. The university’s total impact results from three sources:
- Spending that is the direct result of Oregon State operations, employment and expenditures.
- Indirect economic contributions that occur as companies purchase additional supplies or hire additional employees to support purchases from Oregon State.
- Induced benefits for state and local economies resulting from the purchasing power of Oregon State employees.

As a result of Oregon State’s activities in 2011, the university contributed a net of nearly 18,000 jobs in Linn and Benton counties and elsewhere in the state.

A half-million visitors
In 2011, just more than 350,000 visitors came to Corvallis to tour the campus, attend athletic, university or cultural events, participate in scientific presentations, meetings and research or use campus facilities. Of all visitors, a little less than half were from Benton and Linn counties, and nearly 90 percent were Oregon residents. Spending by university visitors contributed $2 million to the local economy.

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY’S STATEWIDE JOB CREATION IMPACT

▶ 8,508 JOBS

(in net job creation terms)

PAYROLL
$661 million
66.1%

VISITOR SPENDING
$32 million
3.6%

CAPITAL SPENDING
$138 million
12.3%

GOODS & SERVICES PURCHASED
$194 million
18%

STUDENT SPENDING
$461 million
39.1%

DIRECT RESULT OF OSU
$5,678 jobs
66.1%

INDIRECT RESULT OF OSU
$871 jobs
10.1%

INDUCED RESULT OF OSU
$2,044 jobs
23.8%

MONEY OSU INFUSED INTO THE OREGON ECONOMY IN 2011

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OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY’S STATEWIDE ECONOMIC IMPACT

$1.932 BILLION
OREGON’S PREEMINENT PUBLIC RESEARCH UNIVERSITY IN AMERICA’S MOST INNOVATIVE CITY

Oregon State University continues to conduct more research than all other Oregon University System campuses combined. In 2011, Oregon State brought in $261.7 million in research funding — just below the record amount awarded in 2010, when research activity across the U.S. was greatly enhanced by federal economic recovery appropriations. Analysts say every dollar of Oregon State research funding adds as much as $1.67 in benefit to society and also helps local businesses start, grow and add jobs. In total dollars, the worldwide societal benefits of Oregon State research in 2010 and 2011 represent a combined additional impact ranging from $107 million to $359 million. Oregon State’s research programs are far ranging — both in their breadth and in their physical locations across Oregon and worldwide. Oregon State is among the nation’s leading research institutions in fields such as marine sciences, forestry, climate change, wave energy, sustainable food, nuclear engineering and public health.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES AT UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN OREGON (IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

Oregon State research funding has a vibrant and diverse ripple effect — and not just in a financial sense. University researchers help feed the world’s growing population through agricultural discoveries that bring about stronger and more productive crop varieties. They improve health and wellness through discoveries in disease prevention and treatment, nutrition and exercise. They develop new ways to generate clean, renewable power and evaluate ways to better manage, use and protect vital natural resources, such as water supplies and forests. And that is just for starters.

The size, scope and success of Oregon State research is neither short-term nor something new. For more than 40 years, Oregon State has been the state’s leading public university in producing patents — a defining measurement of innovation that propels new products and commerce. In fact, according to Oregon State’s Office of Commercialization, the 327 patents issued to the university over the past 25 years are more than twice the combined total of patents issued to all other OUS universities. Those patents are a major reason why Corvallis was named America’s Most Innovative City in a 2010 study from Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Wave Energy
Ocean waves offer a vast source of clean, renewable energy, and that potential is especially strong along the Oregon coast. Oregon State is helping make it a reality. Through the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center — one of three nationwide — Oregon State is working with the Oregon Wave Energy Trust, Columbia Power Technologies, Oregon Iron Works and others on wave and tidal energy prototypes, a testing facility in Newport and mitigating environmental impacts. In field testing, the wave energy buoys produced 150 kilowatts on average, enough to power about 150 homes. Oregon Sea Grant is also working with coastal communities and the fishing industry to cooperatively site wave energy facilities, with the first scheduled for installation this summer in Reedsport. Studies continue on the potential of tidal energy on the Columbia River.

Wheat Yields
Wheat is big business across Oregon. In 2010, wheat generated $442 million in revenue. It’s the state’s fourth most valuable agricultural commodity. And wheat is the top export shipped through the Port of Portland. Oregon State has developed and released ten wheat varieties since 2002 that thrive in the relatively mild, but damp conditions of the Willamette Valley as well as the drier, hotter Columbia basin. These include the herbicide-resistant strains most popular in the Pacific Northwest. In 2011, Oregon State-developed varieties accounted for 592,000 acres, or 76 percent of all winter wheat statewide. They also increased the average yield by five bushels per acre, helping Oregon wheat growers generate $17 million in additional revenues in 2011.

$536.8 million total research funding in 2010 & 2011

Oregon State University

FEDERAL AWARDS
$184.8 million
STATE AWARDS
$7.31 million
ALL OTHER SOURCES
$536.8 million
TOTAL
$261.7 million

2010

FEDERAL AWARDS
$183.2 million
STATE AWARDS
$5.50 million
ALL OTHER SOURCES
$536.8 million
TOTAL
$261.7 million

2011

RESEARCH

PROTOTYPE BUOY

Photo courtesy of Ocean Power Technologies, Inc.
The impact of Oregon State research extends well into the global economy. It can be seen in the many startup companies and worldwide industry leaders with strong Oregon State connections. This impressive roster includes CH2M HILL, Intel, Google, Hewlett-Packard, Jeld-Wen, Avery-Dennison, Dow Chemical, Monsanto, BASF, NuScale Power, Precision Plant Systems and Azuray Technologies. Research conducted by Oregon State contributes to economic growth and development in Oregon, according to a study conducted by economists at ECONorthwest, in ways ranging from technology transfer to expert consultation.

Contributions noted in ECONorthwest’s analysis include:

- **UNIVERSITY SCIENTISTS WITH A NATIONAL REPUTATION.** These researchers are more likely to be able to attract venture capital, management and qualified employees with the technical expertise and experience necessary to start new companies.
- **HANDS-ON AND FACE-TO-FACE INVOLVEMENT.** The engagement of university researchers bolsters the success of the new business by enabling discussion and new ideas to be shared easily.
- **AVAILABILITY OF SCIENTIFIC LABOR.** An important need for managers of industrial businesses and laboratories. A new or expanding firm may choose to locate in an area if local universities can provide a steady supply of highly qualified science and engineering graduates.

### HIGH QUALITY UNIVERSITY RESEARCH
The universities with the greatest local economic impacts are generally those with the highest quality research programs.

According to Oregon State’s Office for Commercialization and Corporate Development, between 1982 and 2011, 35 start-up companies were created as a result of Oregon State research — of which 19 are still operating. Between 2004 and 2011 alone, these firms raised approximately $160 million in funding and currently employ 350 Oregonians. The local companies listed here, all of them spinoffs from Oregon State, help to illustrate the kinds of marketplace innovations that the university is making possible.

In addition, ECONorthwest researchers say that recent national studies indicate that local industries more closely related to nearby university innovation grow faster and achieve greater economic success than other local industries.

The national evidence suggests that research universities cause a 25 percent increase in local industries. The national studies indicate that local industries more closely related to nearby university innovation grow faster and achieve greater economic success than other local industries. The national evidence suggests that research universities cause a 25 percent increase in local employment and payroll growth among industries related to those campuses.

### Making Better Metals
Chain saws, baseball bats, truck bodies, jet engine parts and bridges have more in common than just metal. They are all made in Oregon and account for about 55,000 jobs. To keep this industry strong, Oregon State is working through the Oregon Metals Initiative (OMI) with companies such as Daimler Trucks, Hewlett-Packard, Benchmark and Blount. Manufacturing to solve problems and explore product improvements, from safer chain saws to lighter, more fuel-efficient trucks.

According to John Parmigiani, a mechanical engineer who represents Oregon State on the OMI board of directors, Oregon State researchers have conducted more than $2 million in research projects since 2007. Not only have they helped manufacturers improve processes and products, they have given students real-world experience that has, in many cases, led to full-time jobs after graduation.

### Microchannel Tech
Oregon State is a national leader in microchannel technology, in which chemical reactions, heat and mass transfer and other processes are handled far more efficiently in tiny spaces about the thickness of a human hair. And the potential for this technology — including new jobs and companies for Oregon — is enormous.

One of the earliest applications to be commercialized is for kidney dialysis. Home Dialysis Plus, an Oregon-based startup, has licensed Oregon State technology to develop a device that will let patients with kidney failure receive dialysis treatments at home, often while they are sleeping. Another application uses new microchannel coatings that may revolutionize heat exchangers, which could be used in everything from consumer electronics to miniature heat pumps and automobile cooling systems.

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### SELECTED START-UP COMPANIES WITH CONNECTION TO OREGON STATE

- **Home Dialysis Plus**
  - Exclusively licensed key micro-scale technology was developed in the Oregon State University College of Engineering. The firm received a $250 million investment, one of the most substantial venture investments in Oregon.

- **Azuray**
  - Co-founder and board of directors member professor Terri S. Fiez is a head of Oregon State’s School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

- **Hewlett-Packard**
  - Firm has worked with Oregon State students, faculty, researchers and graduates for several decades since purchasing a 145-acre property in Corvallis in 1974, the site of HP’s Advanced Products Division.

- **CH2M HILL**
  - Founded in Corvallis in 1946 by an Oregon State civil engineering professor Fred Merryfield and three of his students, who graduated from Oregon State. CH2M HILL is among the world’s leading engineering firms.

- **Strands**
  - Founded by computer sciences professors John Herlocker and Thomas Dietterich and visiting professor Francisco Martin. Now Strands Labs, with offices in Corvallis, Barcelona and San Francisco.

- **NuScale Power**
  - CEO Paul Lorenzini is an Oregon State doctoral graduate, while Chief Technology Officer Jose Reyes is an Oregon State professor of this nuclear power start-up.

- **Precision Plant Systems**
  - Licensed technology is from Oregon State. Firm produces computerized tools that take key measurements of plant health.

- **ViewPlus Technologies**
  - Founder and president is professor emeritus John Gardner, who developed the technology behind this successful Braille printing startup while a physics professor at Oregon State.
Oregon State University’s tens of thousands of graduates have made and continue to make significant contributions across Oregon, the nation and the world. For many, Oregon State’s most prominent graduate is Linus Pauling — a world-acclaimed scientist and peace activist and for whom the Linus Pauling Institute on the Oregon State campus is named. Pauling is the only recipient of two unshared Nobel Prizes — for chemistry and peace, and his legacy at Oregon State was recognized this year with the opening of the Linus Pauling Science Center. But the range of accomplishments of Oregon State alumni is diverse and historic. Douglas Engelbart, the inventor of the computer mouse and who is credited with developing the initial idea for e-mail, is an Oregon State graduate, as is Bernie Newcomb, co-founder of E-Trade. The former is a world-acclaimed scientist and peace activist. And for whom the Linus Pauling Institute on the Oregon State campus is named. Pauling is the only recipient of two unshared Nobel Prizes — for chemistry and peace, and his legacy at Oregon State was recognized this year with the opening of the Linus Pauling Science Center. But the range of accomplishments of Oregon State alumni is diverse and historic. Douglas Engelbart, the inventor of the computer mouse and who is credited with developing the initial idea for e-mail, is an Oregon State graduate, as is Bernie Newcomb, co-founder of E-Trade. The former president/CEO of Hewlett-Packard, John A. Young, calls Oregon State “alma mater,” and so do Chris Johns and Dennis Dimick, editor and executive editor, respectively, of National Geographic magazine. Former U.S. Forest Service chief Abigail Kimball, Leatherman tool inventor Tim Leatherman, U-Haul founder Leonard Shoen, former Oregon Gov. John Hubert Hall, screenwriter Mike Rich (Secretariat, Radio, Finding Forrester) — all are Oregon State alumni. As are Heisman Trophy winner and Portland attorney Terry Baker, World Series champion Jacoby Ellsbury of the Boston Red Sox, former congresswomen Darlene Hooley and Julia Butler Hansen or NASA astronauts William Oefelin and Donald Pettit.

The impact of Oregon State graduates continues to grow. Recent alumni are driving discovery and the economy in such areas as alternative energy development ranging from solar to wind to nuclear, the computer-driven, 21st century dimensions of agricultural management, striking an appropriate balance between commercialization and conservation in forest products, protecting and enhancing public health, understanding the world beneath the sea and more. As a result, Oregon State grads are leaders in the state and national economy, and findings from recent research reflect their impact. In surveys conducted last spring of both the Oregon public and of Oregon State alumni, respondents gave Oregon State higher marks than any other university for making a positive impact on the Oregon economy through innovations and spin-off companies that create jobs. And these surveys rated Oregon State higher than any other institution for serving local communities through access to education and real-world problem-solving initiatives, for providing practical research focused on global problems and engaging in research and teaching that enhance sustainability.

In new research conducted by ECONorthwest of Oregon State graduates, nearly 71 percent of more than 5,800 respondents work in occupations directly related to their undergraduate degrees. And their earning power is significantly higher than the rest of the U.S. population: The median income of Oregon State graduates in the ECONorthwest survey falls between $60,000 and $80,000 — 50 percent greater than the median income of the rest of the U.S. population, as measured by the U.S. Census Bureau. Approximately 10 percent of graduates reported annual income of $200,000 or more, compared to 5 percent of the U.S. population.

The employment success of Oregon State graduates also measures well against other Oregon universities. Independent research conducted last fall by the company PayScale reported that in mid-career, Oregon State bachelor’s degree recipients earn more annually than the graduates of any other Oregon university, nearly $6,000 more per year than graduates of the next Oregon public university and only slightly less than University of Washington graduates.

But what they make possible in this state is not defined only in monetary terms. More than 66 percent of respondents to the ECONorthwest research reported that they volunteer in their community, with nearly 40 percent providing service between 10 and 99 times a year. Forty percent also report serving on boards of community organizations. These graduates take the spirit of the Land Grant mission into their lives and careers, giving back to the benefit of the people of Oregon.

### The McMenamin Effect

Portland’s McMenamin brothers, Mike and Brian, were microbrewers before microbrewing was cool. They both graduated from Oregon State with degrees in political science, Mike in 1974 and Brian in 1980. But beer, not politics, was their destiny.

Opening their first pub in 1983 in Portland, the brothers added a brewery two years later, and McMenamin’s is now the region’s fourth-largest microbrewery. They have also built an empire of more than 50 pubs, breweries, hotels, coffee roasters and movie theaters throughout Oregon and Washington, many in historic buildings, and all featuring a variety of historic and commissioned artwork. Music venues draw top regional and national performers.

Considered pioneers of the Pacific Northwest’s thriving microbrew and historic hotel industries, Mike and Brian have made McMenamin’s an Oregon icon.

### Eco Advocacy

Portland’s Vanessa Keitges is rapidly making her mark as a leader in business development, marketing and sales, having helped several companies achieve triple-digit growth in both domestic and international markets. A 1997 Oregon State graduate with a degree in philosophy, Vanessa and a group of local investors bought Columbia Green, a Portland eco-technology firm, in 2009. The company specializes in green roof systems, where vegetation planted on rooftops help manage storm water runoff, cut heating and cooling costs and reduce air and water pollution.

As CEO, Vanessa has rapidly increased sales, from $1 million in 2010 to $3.1 million in 2011. Columbia Green has also been recognized for its success in exporting products designed and manufactured in the United States. 

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**Income of Oregon State Graduates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $20,000</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000-$40,000</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<td>$40,000-$60,000</td>
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<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000+</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** ECONorthwest survey of OSU alumni conducted in January 2012, with more than 5,800 responses.
Oregon State University’s three Statewide Public Service Programs — the OSU Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station and Forest Research Laboratory — have been improving quality of life and bolstering the state’s economy for more than a century.

Serving Oregon’s 36 counties
Since 1911, the OSU Extension Service has been providing research-based educational programs across the state. More than 200 Extension faculty are located on the Corvallis campus and in each of Oregon’s 36 counties. Programs focused on agriculture, family and community health, forestry, 4-H youth development and marine resources help Oregonians of all ages and in both rural and urban settings solve problems, develop skills and manage resources wisely. A statewide network of nearly 18,000 volunteers team up with OSU Extension Service faculty to lead programs such as 4-H, Master Gardeners, nutrition and health assistance and others. OSU Extension Service programs reach an estimated 2.3 million Oregonians every year—nearly two-thirds of our state’s population.

Impact In Agriculture
As Oregon’s land grant university, Oregon State University has always played a vital role in the state’s $4.3 billion agriculture industry, which includes nearly 39,000 farms and tens of thousands of jobs. Research and outreach from Oregon State College of Agricultural Sciences and OSU Extension Service faculty, Experiment Station scientists and students help Oregon farmers and ranchers solve problems, improve operations, increase yields and gain market share. Examples include helping coastal cranberry growers protect against frost damage, working with ranchers to successfully market value-added beef and breeding herbicide-resistant, high-yield wheat varieties. Oregon State earned $55 million in agricultural research funding in 2011, and these grants are often leveraged with industry partners and other external sources, sometimes by as much as two dollars for every dollar in research funding.

Oregon Open Campus: extending education
OSU Extension Service has recently expanded its educational commitment by launching the Oregon Open Campus Initiative. This partnership links Oregon State, local community colleges, K-12 school districts, local governments and businesses to address economic and quality of life issues specific to each community. Launched in Tillamook, Jefferson and Crook counties in 2010, additional Oregon Open Campus programs will begin in other communities across the state this year. Oregon Open Campus programs have the potential to serve the more than 750,000 Oregonians who have some college experience, but who have not completed a degree. Seminars, presentations and training programs will support economic development, workforce advancement and lifelong learning, as well as help participants gain professional credentials. Oregon Open Campus compliments the more than 700 online courses available through OSU Extended Campus, making learning from Oregon State possible almost anywhere.

Access To Education
Oregon State enrolled nearly 25,000 students last fall, with the state’s largest freshman class. Oregon State also consistently enrolls the most Oregon valedictorians, salutatorians and other high achievers. To make higher education more accessible, the Campaign for OSU has raised more than $185 million for scholarships, and since 2008, the Bridge to Success Program has covered tuition and fees for 3,000 Oregon students each year. Oregon State is also the only university to have degree partnerships with all 17 Oregon community colleges, giving future transfer students a clear path to a bachelor’s degree. New programs include a 3+3 partnership with Willamette University’s College of Law where students can complete their degrees in six years instead of seven. OSU-Cascades in Bend has seen double-digit enrollment growth for the past three years and has added degrees in energy engineering management and clinical mental health.
Local support for local programs

As the state’s land grant university, one of Oregon State’s primary responsibilities is to serve Oregonians, addressing the unique issues and needs of their communities. OSU Extension, Agricultural Experiment Station and Forest Research Lab faculty work with business people, growers, foresters and community members to share research findings and put knowledge to work. These Statewide Public Service programs not only strengthen Oregon’s natural resource-based industries, they support small businesses, enhance public health and help build thriving communities.

And their work is valued across Oregon: Citizens in 20 counties have passed local tax service districts, ensuring permanent support for their local Extension service. Many other Oregon counties provide annual appropriations from their general funds. In addition, community and business partners contribute to operating costs of some local programs. In the Portland area for example, nearly 30 public and private organizations support OSU Extension Service programming, multiplying the value of base program funding.

Such investments pay handsome dividends. In 2010 alone, Oregon State faculty secured $97 million in outreach-related grants and contracts that provided more than $200 million in economic benefits and created more than 3,000 jobs statewide.

Despite the specific, significant impacts of Statewide Public Service programs, a weak economy and related public funding cuts have made cutbacks necessary in recent years. In characteristic fashion however, OSU Extension has gained efficiencies through virtual and online resources and has created regional, multi-county approaches that have lessened the impact of staffing reductions. At the same time, it is critical to the communities and people Statewide Public Service programs serve that budgets are not cut further, as that would push them beyond the tipping point of continuing even currently reduced programs of Extension, the Agricultural Experiment Stations and the Forest Research Lab.

Wood Products

There’s much more to the state’s wood products industry than raw timber — including millions in engineered wood products. Two Oregon State innovations — nontoxic adhesives and densified poplar — are in the process of commercialization.

Oregon State researcher Kaichang Li and his colleagues have developed adhesives that offer alternatives to petroleum-based glues for plywood and particle board manufacturers as well as for the commercial label industry. Oregon State has patented and licensed their discoveries for commercial development.

Fred Kamke, an expert in adhesives and wood composites, has developed a process to combine fast-growing hybrid poplar with other materials to produce a high-strength composite that could be used in construction, furniture and other products. Kamke has partnered with Corvallis Tool Company and Oregon BEST, one of the state’s signature research centers, to develop the technology.

Marine Science

Newport has long been a fishing port, but an increasing share of the central coast’s economy is driven by research and education. At its core is Oregon State’s Hatfield Marine Science Center, with an annual budget of nearly $40 million and more than 300 state, federal and university employees. The marine science center also brings in 180,000 visitors annually.

This infrastructure is a major reason why the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) moved its Pacific Fleet operations last year from the Seattle area to Newport, bringing an estimated $40 million annually to the local economy. Oregon State is also leading the Ocean Observatories Initiative, a $386 million project from the National Science Foundation that will deploy moorings, buoys and gliders off Newport, creating local jobs as well as 17 scientist positions in Corvallis.

OREGON STATE ALONE among Oregon colleges and universities can claim a presence in each of Oregon’s 36 counties. The 64 locations on this map provide a guide to those physical presences, which are supplemented by the virtual presence of OSU Extended Campus and Oregon Open University programs. These programs and presences make the university a vital partner in workforce and economic development, locally focused research, public health assistance and more.
THE NEXT STEPS ➤
OREGON STATE’S COMMITMENT FOR A BETTER FUTURE

As Oregon’s land grant university, Oregon State is helping achieve a better future by serving as an engaged partner and investor in initiatives that make prosperity possible throughout the state.

Directed by the university’s strategic plan, Oregon State is committed to improving the economy; improving quality of life and our environment; and improving public health and wellness. And while the university’s immediate focus is in many instances the state of Oregon, OSU’s research, education and service span the United States and reach across the world.

With these commitments in mind, Oregon State announces the following “next steps” for a better future.

ONE ➤
University/industry partnerships

Improving the economy and growing jobs are an essential priority. Oregon State will expand efforts to support the economic recovery by accelerating research-based innovation; increasing university-industry partnerships through sponsored research; and emphasizing new business development and commercialization of research.

The university will enhance the key role it already plays in the economy by delivering more graduates with the right knowledge and skills and by engaging with industry to transform breakthrough ideas into high-value products and services.

TWO ➤
Public health and preventative health care

Through its one-of-a-kind-in-Oregon College of Public Health and Human Sciences, Oregon State is focusing on addressing the most challenging health care issues facing the state and the nation, including prevention strategies across all ages. Oregon State’s efforts will include teaching, conducting pioneering research and delivering outreach programs throughout the state; promoting proper nutrition; helping individuals and families to overcome poverty and hunger; and change inactive lifestyles; improving the lives of children and older at-risk adults; preventing disease; promoting access to healthcare services; and maximizing the use of environmentally friendly materials in clothing and building materials. Such efforts will promote lifelong health and well being for all.

THREE ➤
The next century of engagement and outreach education

The OSU Extension Service recently celebrated its first 100 years. Its focus now turns to the future and providing even better research-based education throughout Oregon’s urban and rural communities. Through a growing Oregon Open Campus initiative, Oregon State is partnering with local community colleges, business organizations, school districts and local governments to provide educational programs unique to the needs of individual communities.

Oregon Open Campus programs can serve the more 750,000 Oregonians who may have some college experience but haven’t completed a degree. In addition to Oregon Open Campus programs, OSU’s Extended Campus online curriculum provides learning opportunities statewide that will bolster Oregonians’ quality of life and prosperity, regardless of where they live.

Obesity Prevention

Why are children in rural communities at greater risk for obesity? Oregon State researchers Deborah John and Kathy Gunter identify several factors: long bus commutes; few resources to support physical activity, recreational sports programs or health education; and lack of healthy food choices.

Now, they’re doing something about it. Funded by a $5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, John and Gunter are developing an obesity prevention program through OSU Extension that promotes healthy eating and physical activity. Working with school districts, health care providers, parents and volunteer groups, they will begin assessments and field testing in September in Clackamas, Columbia and Klamath counties.

The goal is to improve the Body Mass Index (BMI) among 5- to 8-year-old children.

DEBORAH JOHN AND KATHY GUNTER

Solar Power

Oregon State University is helping the state become a leader in the solar power industry. Oregon State electrical engineer Terri Fiez is also co-founder of Azuray Technologies, which has developed power optimizing and monitoring electronics that improve reliability, reduce cost and harvest more energy from solar panel arrays.

Transparent electronics created by John Wager and colleagues have been licensed by Oregon State and Hewlett-Packard to a California firm developing solar power devices that offer twice the efficiency at half the cost of traditional solar panels.

Other Oregon State research is creating more economical methods for making thin-film solar electronics, including continuous-flow microreactors and inkjet printing. And pyrite, better known as “fool’s gold,” is helping researchers identify related compounds that could be used for low-cost, high-efficiency solar cells.

TERRI FIEZ
FOUR
Helping improve the quality of life and economy of the Portland region

Oregon State recognizes the importance of helping foster an improved economy and enhanced quality of life throughout the greater Portland area. The university is committed to work as an investor by creating a regional strategy that helps foster research initiatives to support business clusters targeted in Portland regional economic strategies; build upon Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station programs in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties; support existing Portland area programs offered by Oregon State’s colleges of Business, Public Health, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine; and build upon community engagement efforts by Oregon State faculty, staff and alumni.

FIVE
Sharing our science, helping leaders chart a course

At a time when choices on complex issues will certainly shape the future, Oregon State is committed to share the depth and breadth of its research to further inform the public, private industry, stakeholder groups and elected officials. Oregon State will launch a series of briefings throughout Oregon, featuring prominent scientists from its faculty, who will share their knowledge on issues such as biofuels, biomass, water policy, climate change, marine sciences, nuclear power, public infrastructure and feeding an ever-increasing world population. Informed with such information, the public, stakeholder groups, business people and elected decision makers will have at their disposal greater knowledge and contextual information to address important issues that for years have remained unresolved.

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Healthy Aging

The future of medicine lies not just in treating diseases, but in preventing those that are the leading cause of death in the developed world: cancer, heart disease, diabetes, stroke and neurodegenerative disease.

Prevention is the focus of Oregon State’s Linus Pauling Institute and the Center for Healthy Aging Research. Current research projects are investigating the role of vitamin D in protecting immune function and therapeutic uses for lipoic acid, such as anti-inflammatories. Recent studies have shown some diets can help prevent the loss of mental acuity and brain shrinkage associated with Alzheimer’s disease, while other foods may accentuate those problems.

Disease prevention can significantly reduce health care costs. And staying healthier longer offers better quality of life to an aging population.