



JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
Governor

March 29, 2011

Richard Lariviere
President, University of Oregon
Office of the President
110 Johnson Hall
Eugene, OR 97403

Dear President Lariviere:

Thank you for meeting with me last week about higher education reform in Oregon. As we discussed, Oregon's current education funding and governance structure requires a new approach if we want to position Oregon's universities, our students, and our state for long-term success. I share your commitment to seeing that the first steps in reform are adopted during the current legislative session. I also share your commitment to making sure that the steps taken during 2011 do not mark the end, but just the beginning. We must continue to work on the important issues of governance and funding for Oregon's public universities through the interim so that the next steps in reform are ready to be fully debated and adopted during the 2012 legislative session.

I appreciate your support for my proposal creating the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) and your support of the other higher education reform measures before the legislature, including your proposals in SB 559 and SJR 20. Collectively these initiatives represent a big shift in how we govern higher education and changes of this magnitude take time. Thank you for recognizing this challenge and for agreeing to let the debate about the policies in SB 559 and SJR 20 carry forward to the interim so that we are prepared to consider and take action on the issues of local governing boards for our universities and stable funding proposals in 2012.

My priority this session is to establish the OEIB to truly unify and create a seamless 0-20 education system for Oregon. With your help in passing this legislation and creating this board, we can launch the kinds of redesign work necessary to transform our system. In the conversations among education stakeholders that will take place over the next year, I am committed to developing recommendations for the 2012 legislative session around governance and funding. I expect that these recommendations will include full consideration of establishing local governing boards and endowment partnerships for our universities. To that end, I encourage you to continue contributing to this dialogue with legislators, your colleagues in the Oregon University System, other education stakeholders, and the public. Your ideas are thoughtful and advance the greater mission of our educational system.

Richard Lariviere
March 29, 2011
Page Two

Thank you for your service and your commitment to higher education in Oregon. I am pleased that there is general alignment between our respective policy agendas and I look forward to working with you and other education leaders to make Oregon's 0-20 education system among the best in the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Kitzhaber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor

JAK/sb