

## **Academic Quality and Student Success Committee Agenda**

1. **Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum** (10:00 am) (5 min) *Co-Chairs Nunez and Amuchastegui*
2. **Consent Agenda** (10:05 am) (5 min) *Co-Chairs Nunez and Amuchastegui*
  - 2.1 **Approve the minutes of the meeting on October 15, 2024.**
3. **Reports**
  - 3.1 **Provost's Report** (10:10 am) (40 min) *Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs & Strategic Enrollment Management, Dr. Hesham El-Revini*
  - 3.2 **Student Affairs Report** (10:50 am) (30 min) *Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Mandi Clark*
  - 3.3 **Strategic Enrollment Report** (11:20 am) (25 min) *Dr Greg Stringer, AVP Strategic Enrollment Management and Retention*
4. **Action Items**
  - 4.1 **None**
5. **Other Business/New Business** (11:45 am) (5 min) *Co-Chairs Nunez and Amuchastegui*
6. **Adjournment** (11:50 am)

*All times are approximate.*

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## **Academic Quality and Student Success Committee Minutes**

### **Trustees Present:**

Cec Amuchastegui Co-Chair  
Celia Nuñez-Flores Co-Chair  
Dr. Johnnie Early  
Dr. Mark Neupert  
Aaron Hill  
Keegan Dentinger (*non-voting student trustee*)  
Don Gentry (joined at 10:15 am)  
Dr. Nagi Naganathan, President (*ex-officio*)

### **Additional Trustees Present:**

John Davis, J.D., Board Chair

### **AQSS Member Trustees Absent: None**

### **University Staff and Faculty Present**

Dr. Joanna Mott, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs & Strategic Enrollment Management  
Dr. Abdy Afjeh, Vice Provost for Research and Academic Affairs, Interim Chair Department of MMET  
Dr. Neslihan Alp, Dean of Engineering, Technology and Management, and Engineering  
Dr. Ruth Claire Black, Dean of Online Education & Global Engagement  
Dr. Greg Stringer, AVP for Strategic Enrollment and Retention  
Dr. Michelle Preston, Associate Dean of the College of Health, Arts & Science  
Dr. Nate Bickford, Interim Dean of the College of Health, Arts & Sciences  
Don Stockton, Director of Veterans Services  
Dr. Mandi Clark, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Dr. Ken Fincher, Vice President of University Advancement & Board Secretary  
David Groff, J.D., General Counsel  
John Harman, Vice President of Finance & Administration  
Dr. Beverly McCreary, Associate Vice Provost of Faculty Relations  
Adria Paschal, Senior Executive Assistant to the President

1. **Call to Order/Roll/Declaration of a Quorum:** *Co-Chair Amuchastegui*  
called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. The Board Secretary called the roll, and a quorum was declared.
2. **Consent Agenda:** *Co-Chairs Amuchastegui and Nuñez-Flores*
  - **Approve minutes of the April 9, 2024, meeting.**  
Minutes for the meeting were adopted, and no changes were noted. All members present voted aye.
3. **Reports**
  - **Provost's Report:** *Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs & SEM, Dr. Joanna Mott*
    - Dr. Mott provided a report on academic affairs and strategic enrollment management.
    - She provided a staffing update, an update on academic programs, an online education update, a student retention report, a faculty retention report, and a report on Global Engagement
    - Dr. Mott also shared an update on sponsored projects and grants administration.
    - Dr. Mott informed the committee on the activities related to the College of Engineering, Technology and Management (ETM), including an update on applied computing and geomatics, business management, civil engineering, computer systems engineering technology (CSET), Electrical Engineering, Renewable Energy, and Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering and Technology (MMEIT).
    - Dr. Mott reported on the College of Health Arts & Sciences (HAS), including reports on communications, Dental Hygiene, Emergency Medical Services, Health Science, Humanities and Social Science, Mathematics, Medical Imaging Technology, Medical Lab Science, and Natural Science.
    - Dr. Mott concluded with a report on the University Library, the Registrar's Office, and the admissions office, including advising and retention, financial aid, and Educational Partnerships and Outreach.
    - Dr. Mott answered questions from the trustees.
  - **3.2 Boeing Collaborative Report:** *Dr. Abdy Afjeh, Interim Chair, Department of Manufacturing, Mechanical, and Technology; Vice Provost, Research and Academic Affairs*
    - Dr. Afjeh reported on the relationship between Oregon Tech and Boeing. His report included the purpose of the lab, a proposal review and award process, the university selection of interns, securing Boeing Intellectual Property, Laboratory Operations, Project Task Assignment, Assessment and progress, and Project Fiscal Management.
    - Dr. Afjeh answered questions from the trustees; Dr. Nagi added to the presentation by explaining the uniqueness of the partnership.

### 3.3 Student Affairs Report: *Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Mandi Clark*

- Dr. Clark provided a report on the student affairs departments, including a report on engagement strategies, the academic and competitive successes of the Athletic teams, Basic Needs services, including a program to raise awareness of the basic needs services, Career Services, the College Union facility, Disability and Testing Services, Housing and Residence Life, Integrated Student Health, the Portland Metro Student Services Building Community Events, Global Engagement Week, Student Involvement and Belonging (SIB), the Tech Nest, The Tech Opportunity Program (TOP), and Veteran's Services.
- VP Clark answered questions from the trustees.

### 3.4 International Student Experience Presentation: *Interim Dean of the College of Health, Arts & Sciences, Dr. Nate Bickford, with students Mason Smith (Civil Engineering), Tegan Running (Environmental Sciences- Water), and John Morning (Bio-Health Science)*

- Dr. Bickford and the students listed above provided an overview of their international trip and their educational, cultural, and personal experiences. They described their trip, cultural exposure, food, and lessons learned during their trip.

## 4. Action Items:

- **Early Notification Report New Program: BS in Allied Health:** *Interim Dean of the College of Health, Arts & Sciences, Dr. Nate Bickford*
  - Dr. Bickford provided information about a new bachelor of science in allied health degree and the process the university will pursue to bring this new degree to fruition. The information presented included the expected curricula, planned enrollment, ROI, career opportunities for graduates, and faculty needs. Dr. Bickford answered questions from the trustees.
  - Motion to approve made by Trustee Early
  - Seconded by Trustee Neupert
  - Trustees voting aye: Amuchastegui, Nunez, Genty (by text), Early, Neupert, Hill.
  - Trustees voting nay: none
- **Early Notification Report, New Program: MA in Athletic Training:** *Interim Dean of the College of Health, Arts & Sciences, Dr. Nate Bickford*
  - Dr. Bickford provided information about a master of science in athletic training degree and the process the university will pursue to bring this new degree to fruition. The information presented included the expected curricula, planned enrollment, ROI, career opportunities for graduates, and faculty needs. Dr. Bickford answered questions from the trustees.
  - Motion to approve made by Trustee Neupert
  - Seconded by Trustee Early
  - Trustees voting aye: Amuchastegui, Nunez, Gentry (by text), Early, Neupert, Hill.
  - Trustees voting nay: none

5. **Other Business/New Business, Co-Chairs Amuchastegui and Nuñez-Flores**  
None.

**Adjournment - 12:36 pm**

**October 15, 2024, Academic Quality & Student Success October 15, 2024, Committee Meeting can be found in its entirety at:**

**<https://www.oit.edu/trustees/meetings-events/recordings>**

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# Fall 2024 Student Affairs AQSS Report

## Student Affairs

As a division, the fall term was a busy one! Teams within the Division hosted New Wings, the welcome events at the start of the term called Weeks of Welcome, and many activities to help Oregon Tech students, faculty, and staff engage, connect, learn, and grow together. The Dean of Students was busy working with students as they engaged in behaviors that may have been a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, but also busy hosting events to help students connect with the Dean including two Donuts with the Dean(s) events, as well as hosting drop-in hours for students to get to know the Dean of Students, the office, and how they can connect with us for assistance.

The Vice President of Student Affairs was also busy this term, working on retention efforts across the division to help students connect somewhere to encourage them to persist and keep working toward their academic goals. Collaborative activities and projects are being forged with many partners across campus to help keep students enrolled and progressing in their educational journey at Oregon Tech. We are excited and hopeful to share our successes as the year progresses.

## Athletics

Fall is a busy season for Athletics. All fall sports are underway with men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's golf, and volleyball all in session during the fall term. Additionally, men's and women's basketball began their pre-season during the fall term and hosted opening games later in the fall term. Following are a few highlights of the fall term.

- September 15, 2024: 160 golfers competed in the annual Lithia Oregon Tech Golf Challenge at the Running Y golf course. This event is a fundraiser for the Athletic Department. A special thanks to men's basketball head coach Justin Parnell for spearheading the event and to key sponsors for making the tournament one of the best in our area
- On November 17, 2024, five individuals were inducted into the Howard Morris Oregon Tech Athletic Hall of Fame in a ceremony in the CU. Basketball players Doc Earl ('87) and Drew Schubert ('80), along with longtime coach and administrator Mary Bradford were honored remotely, while baseball star Mark Kane ('83) and longtime coach Bill Fagan ('74) were recognized at the ceremony.
- Both the women's soccer and volleyball teams advanced to their respective NAIA National Championships. The women's soccer team finished the year 15-6-1, placing second overall in the 13-team Cascade Conference, before losing a heartbreaking 1-0 decision to Tennessee Wesleyan in West Palm Beach, Florida. Carly Moss was

named Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) Defensive Player of the Year and Sydni Nakamura was named CCC Goalkeeper of the Year. The volleyball team finished the year 19-14, advancing to the quarterfinals of the CCC Championships, earning an at-large bid to the national tournament, where they dropped a tight 4-set match at Montana Western. Setter Lucy Boyd was named CCC Freshman of the Year.

- Watch parties for both the women's soccer and the women's volleyball teams post-season play-off games were hosted on the Klamath Falls campus with great attendance by students, faculty, and staff. Even with the women's soccer team playing on a Tuesday morning, students came in and out between classes to cheer on the Owls. Saturday afternoon was host to the women's volleyball games and students enjoyed watching their team play on the big screens with snacks provided by ASOIT.
- Both basketball teams headed into league play with identical 4-2 records. The Hustlin' Owls are currently ranked No. 25 in the NAIA Top 25 poll, while the Lady Owls are coming off an upset road win at No. 15-ranked Arizona Christian. The teams will play host to six doubleheaders during the month of January.
- November. 23, 2024: the Oregon Tech men's basketball team had to cancel a home game vs. the Seattle Mountaineers due to water leaking from the Athletic Center roof. Water pooled up around the aging skylights above the court and stands – leaking onto the surface below. Local roofing companies responded, and Oregon Tech Athletics successfully hosted the remaining men's and women's basketball games in December on Danny Miles' court. Then in late December, more wind and rain fell in the Basin and the leaking began again. Local roofers are back out and working to address this issue, and we have secured a contract to replace this roof this summer. The roof was slated for replacement during the summer of 2024, but no companies bid on the project, forcing Oregon Tech to push this work to the summer of 2025.

## Basics Needs Hub

Fall term efforts focused on providing meals for students, ensuring they had something to eat before school during three different days in October. During September and October, the Basic Needs Hub focused on preparing easy-to-make meals with recipes that were served to students on the Klamath Falls campus between classes every couple of weeks. The most popular event served up a White Chicken Chili recipe with at least thirty students in attendance to enjoy a warm meal before heading to class. It was a rewarding experience to see so many students participating and enjoying a hearty and healthy meal before heading off to class.



October was busy, filled with various food-related activities, including a program for students to create and distribute or pick up a meal in a bag for home preparation. Fall term, the Basic

Needs Hub created and distributed 130 meal bags for the Klamath Falls campus. These bags give students a chance to try out a new recipe at home, making it easier for them to enjoy a homemade meal.



To increase awareness of the Basic Needs Hub, and the services provided, the Navigator walked the Klamath Falls campus to distribute meal bags to students. The

Navigator was able to reconnect with familiar faces and meet new students,

To wrap up this term, the Hub Navigator collaborated with the TOP Program to organize an event in November assembling thirty meal bags for students in the TOP program.





## Career Services

### Oregon Tech Employers and Employment Outlook

As a polytechnic and “industry’s university,” Oregon Tech is keenly focused on giving students a professional practice-based education that meets the talent needs of industry and prepares students for success in the first destination career of their choice.

The majority (80%) of Oregon Tech graduates remain in Oregon. According to a [recent report](#) published in the Oregonian, the outlook for Oregon jobs is strong overall. However, it is worth noting that four-fifths of recent employment gains came in healthcare and social assistance. Government jobs are now back to pre-pandemic levels, but there have been declines in Oregon construction and manufacturing. For Oregon Tech there is good news in that talent demand and employer interest from construction and other civil engineering remains high based on recent career fair experiences, and a cyclical downturn in semiconductors is expected to rebound due in some part to an influx of federal and state funding.

From a Career Services perspective, our ability to facilitate intentional Industry Connections is key to supporting our students in their efforts to land their first destination job opportunity after their degree completion.

During the fall term, Career Services welcomed 104 employers to 4 in-person events on the Klamath Falls and Portland-Metro campuses with 505 student check-ins. An additional 8 employers joined us for our first-ever virtual career fair for the cohort of 37 graduating seniors who are off-campus for the fall externship in the Medical Lab Sciences degree program with 21 student check-ins.

Overall employers were very satisfied with the quality of the students they met with (93%) and the majority intended to pursue 5-10 students after the career fair. Boeing and Intel have been the top employers for the past 4 years in engineering majors. Due to recent upheavals at both companies, facilitating relationships with regional employers will become even more important in the next year. In healthcare, OHSU and Sky Lakes Medical Center have traditionally been the top employers, but in this most recent academic year, Salem Health and Peace Health emerged as the top employers.

**Areas to improve:** We have a gap in Computer Systems Engineering Technology (CSET), Cybersecurity, and Management employers and are working to recruit those employers to campus as well as curate internship and job postings for those employers in Handshake (Oregon Tech’s career management platform) and amplify those postings to impacted students. Best practice from the allied healthcare programs in Health, Arts, and Sciences (HAS) has demonstrated that externship experiences are successful in yielding first-destination employment. On the Engineering, Technology, and Management (ETM) side of

the house, the only formalized engineering work experience program is the Multiple Engineering Cooperative Program (MECOP), which is not available to all students. While internships are encouraged, Career Services does not possess a structured program to support students in securing these opportunities. Career Services plans to allocate a percentage of one of the two open Career Advisor positions to focus on internships. Initially, this will be student-focused to make students more aware of internship postings which typically have a definitive application cycle and process and evolve to a more proactive outreach to employers specific to obtaining internship opportunities in areas where we currently have a gap.

**How you can help:** As you are out in your respective professional communities, please encourage potential employers to reach out to us at [career@oit.edu](mailto:career@oit.edu) to explore ways Oregon Tech can help them meet their talent needs.

### **Student First Destination (Graduate) Outcomes**

Oregon Tech must rely on students to provide us with their personal data input to answer that all-important question *What percent of our students are employed at 6 months post-graduation?* This is typically done via surveys. The First Destination (Graduate Outcomes) Survey was re-launched in Fall 2023 after a 3-year hiatus to the 417 students eligible for this cohort. The response rate for FY24 was 25%. Email reminders were sent up to 4 months post-graduation. From these responses, results show that at the time of graduation, 55% of those who completed the survey were working, 36% were still looking, and 9% were continuing education.

In addition to the survey response rate, Career Services offices add a “knowledge” rate comprised of data obtained outside the survey, e.g., LinkedIn, faculty/departmental input, or data from paid services. Nationally, the combination of survey rate and knowledge rate data ranges from 60-80%. To achieve the higher end of the rate, institutions in the Mountain Pacific Association of Colleges and Employers (MPACE) shared best practices of creating “graduation regalia pick-up” events that ask for surveys to be completed as an entrance criterion, asking faculty to email their department’s students regarding their outcomes, collaborating with Alumni Relations, and purchasing from third party data service providers. These suggestions are all being considered as Career Services continues to attempt to collect first-destination data in conjunction with campus partners.

**Areas to improve:** The responses to the First Destination survey indicate two things. 1) Most students do not respond to the survey after they graduate. Typically, it goes to their “oit.edu” email because that is the contact record Career Services has access to in Handshake and 2) Many of our students may just be beginning to look for employment at graduation. We also know that students are more likely to read an email from their department versus other campus emails. For this next academic year, Career Services is partnering with the Oregon Tech Assessment Committee which oversees the Senior Institutional Evaluation Survey (SIE

Survey) process (formerly Student Exit Surveys) administered at the department level. The SIE Survey has a response rate of >50%. Starting this academic year, the SIE Survey will now include employment questions on behalf of Career Services. We are working with the Assessment Committee to identify opportunities to encourage even greater response rates from students working with their academic departments. In addition, we have fostered a collaboration with the Assessment Committee and Alumni Relations with cooperation from the Registrar's Office to send a survey three months post-graduation to the non-oit.edu email that students provide as part of their graduation checklist. We will also continue to research and evaluate third-party data service providers to find one that is not cost-prohibitive.

**How you can help:** Assessment work is not fun or glamorous. In your conversations with department chairs and faculty, please convey your appreciation for the hard work that goes into assessment and the importance of complete and accurate employment outcomes in many accreditation processes.

A challenge for Career Services heading into the winter term 2025 involves staffing. Desiré Brown, who was with Career Services for several years left Oregon Tech to join the University of Oregon Human Resources Team. Anna Fowler has also left Career Services for a different position at Oregon Tech. We wish them both the best! Career Services is filling two Career Advisor positions in the hopes of having at least one person on board in February to help host the spring career fairs on both the Klamath Falls and Portland-Metro campuses.

## College Union (CU)

The College Union (CU) continues to be a hub of activity for students across campus as they seek out dining options, space for club and program meetings, as well as for a variety of Klamath Falls community events. Here are a few highlights from the fall term:

- In late October, an abandoned water pipe in the College Union Auditorium East storage burst and flooded the storage area and half of the stage. Work is underway with contracting and insurance to repair the damage to the storage area and replace the stage flooring. The plan is to begin work in January to complete stage repairs by February.
- A new Administrative Program Assistant is joining the CU team on January 6, 2025. This person replaces Marlene Blevins as Marlene retired in September. Once trained the APA will take on responsibilities including serving as the primary point of contact for reservations in the CU.
- The College Union will fully be using EMS in January 2025, for room reservations, no longer supporting Coursedog reservations. This move back to EMS aids in billing outside parties, clearer confirmation emails, and support the institution by allowing

us to pull statistics regarding building use and by customer type (meetings, student activities, outside parties, etc.)

## Disability and Testing Services

Disability and Testing Services served 257 during the Fall term.

- Entering the sandbox phase of upgrading AIM-the department database management system for full implementation set for spring term.
- As of fall term 2024, students who registered with DS in fall term 2023 have a 94% retention rate.

## Housing and Residence Life

### Week 4 Fall 2024 Housing Occupancy

Village residents: 233

Residence Hall residents

Double room (2 residents per room): 410

Single room (1 resident per room): 22

Staff Rooms in all housing facilities: 48

Total Occupancy: 713

### New Residential Facility Update

- 1st-floor walls are up! This work began during the first week of December. The week of December 16<sup>th</sup>, work on the second floor began.
- The projected opening date of the building is slated for January 2026.
  - The new building is listed in Admission's recruiting information for the upcoming academic year.
  - The proposed housing and dining rates will be shared in January 2025 as the 25/26 housing and will include rates for the new facility with the caveat that the new facility will not be ready until January 2026.

### Student Events and Housing Support Services

- Through the efforts of Programming Assistants, the Residence Hall Association, and Resident Assistants twenty events were held in housing. Over 400 students participated in events this term. Events included small group events such as games and movie nights, finals week "care packages" from staff, while also carrying on the following traditional events including:

- Fall Hall Crawl
- Family and Alumni Weekend Event in collaboration with Student Involvement and Belonging
- Friendsgiving—a popular tradition that students look forward to each year that occurs before the Thanksgiving break
- Student Success Mentors hosted two study session nights per week. These study sessions occur in the Residence Hall Lounges. Mentors also hosted events throughout the term to help students learn about resources on campus. These events included the following:
  - Resume building in collaboration with Career Services
  - FAFSA Q & A Session in collaboration with Financial Aid
  - Stress Management in collaboration with the Integrated Student Health Clinic
  - End-of-Term Study Extravaganza—professors from various majors came to Housing to work directly with students to help them prepare for finals.
- Service Desk Student Staff—this group of student workers is frequently overlooked when discussing the services Housing offers students. This group of students works at the front desk in the Residence Hall and Blue Village. This station is open evenings and weekends for students to collect mail and check out kitchenware, sleds, games, etc. This group of students also processes all student mail.
  - Fall 2024 Student Service Desk Staff processed just under 7,000 letters and packages for 713 residential students.

### Looking Forward

- Housing and Residence Life plans to hire an additional Custodian and a Residence Life Coordinator in the next 4-6 months in preparation for the new residential building.
  - Kim Thompson retired after giving 20 years of service to Housing and Residence Life as a Custodian. A candidate was hired to step into this role starting in January.
- Housing and Residence Life has begun to receive calls for Summer Conference Housing. The goal is to increase summer conferences using residential facilities in the coming years.
- We are considering the best ways to utilize the current Residence Hall once the new building is open. There are many exciting opportunities we are considering.

## Integrated Student Health Clinic (ISHC)

The ISHC had a great fall term, between outreach programming to students, faculty, and staff, and the continued efforts to see all students within one week of their outreach for services. Flu shot clinics were popular this year, with 260 students served, and faculty and staff having a chance to procure their flu shot at the Benefits Fair and during outreach events in various academic buildings. The outreach clinics were popular, allowing students to get their flu shots in between classes quickly without a longer walk to the CU or the ISHC building.

Medical Health Services continue to go well with a full complement of medical staff. The medical staff saw 302 unique students with 453 visits during the fall term. The team was short of the Advanced Health Nurse Practitioner for a few weeks due to an injury, but the Dr. and nurse on staff continued to see patients without a hitch in service offerings. However, we are all glad Kellee is back!

The counseling staff was busy all term, with returning clients coming in for appointments as well as new students reaching out to talk with a counselor. with 114 unique students served, and a total of 469 visits. In February 2025, we are excited to welcome Danny Shapiro to the counseling team on the Klamath Falls campus. Danny will offer our students another counselor to see as they work to connect with someone who can be a support for them as they work through the stressors of college and live, learning skills to help them throughout their lifetime.

## Portland Metro Student Services

### Portland Metro Student Services:

- PM Student Services employs 8 students to manage the Campus Information Center (CIC), Cashier services, TECH Nest merchandise sales and inventory, Bird Feeder Food Pantry, and support professional staff with record keeping, accounting, marketing, and event management. Debbie Kerr, APS of Student Services, launched a professional development for these students: “Beginning with the End in Mind.”
  - This program is designed to foster student ownership of department projects, creatively addressing campus needs with new initiatives or innovations to current services. The supervisor supports students by helping to identify transferable skills and attributes for career readiness. Students are encouraged to pursue stretch goals (what would happen if our “dream big” goals are realized) with weekly benchmark goals.
  - We encourage students to identify barriers that are stopping their progress and help them determine how they can become 100% responsible for the success of their goal.

- The supervisor leads monthly goal sessions, focused on identifying evidence of their success and an opportunity to share barriers out of their control.
- A tangible result of the program is providing students with letters of recommendation based on the NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers) competencies that employers are seeking. The supervisor will use identifiable evidence that shows the impact on their campus community from the progress of goals the students create, track, and document over the year.
- One student involved in the pilot shared this feedback:

“My favorite part was learning more about myself in the workplace. I **often overlook what I do well**, so this process helped me recognize and celebrate those strengths. The goal-setting experience was helpful in identifying my strengths and weaknesses and areas where I need to make progress. **It also gave me a clearer understanding of how to articulate my skills during job interviews. I felt more prepared to highlight what I bring to the table and discuss relevant skills based on what interviewers are looking for.** I also appreciated how I could apply these insights to my renewable energy engineering job search, which made it even more valuable.”

- We are excited about how this demonstrates the program’s effectiveness in support of students.
- Weekly programmed activities were offered every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at 2 :00 pm (College Hour). Programs were hosted by Student Services, Advising & Retention, Counseling, Disability Services, Financial Aid, Library, Veterans Resource Center, Student Involvement & Belonging, ASOIT, and clubs.
- We launched a new Lunch and Learn series: Unintentional Secrets to Success through which we illuminate strategies, services, and systems that are in place to support your success. We want everyone to know about and utilize these things! Our first presentation featured Richard Ellis, Portland-Metro’s Instrument Technologist. Mr. Ellis shared insights about the student capstone experience and how to master the project from the beginning.
- We continue to engage students and employees about the successes, challenges, strengths, and weaknesses of the PM campus through open dialogue events. This year we are calling them “Food for Thoughts” to build on the successes of the Y’all Talk, Student Services Listens series from last year. We provided 3 events in the fall term and will continue to engage the community through these feedback opportunities.

**Global Engagement Office (International Student Services):**

- 2024-2025 F1 Students – We are currently serving 9 F1 current students and 10 alumni.
  - Two students completed their degrees in the fall term.
- Niko Pearson, Global Engagement Coordinator, co-managed International Education Week in November. Fal term also saw Niko offering support to faculty-led study abroad programs with recruitment and program coordination. Niko is on track to lead F1 student advising for immigration regulations and SEVP certification requirements.

## Student Involvement and Belonging (SIB)

### SIB Klamath Falls and Portland Metro Summer 2024 into Fall 2024

- **“The Roost” Student Engagement Platform** – Build-out of student engagement software platform completed during the fall term. This project included creating all forms and workflows related to club and event registration, funding, and approval processes. Training of 80+ student programs and clubs and 5+ campus departments on software utilization fostered event awareness and student engagement on both campuses.

### SIB Klamath Falls Fall 2024

- **Welcome to the Roost Pillar:** Throughout the fall term 13 student Peer Mentors met with their group of “mentees” (about 15+ first-year students) weekly or bi-weekly to discuss overall well-being, how classes were going, and how they were getting involved across campus.
  - **Family & Alumni Weekend:** 100+ participants attended the two-day event. The weekend hosted eight opportunities for families and alumni to engage in athletic games, family dinners, a community service event, as well as opportunities to meet with community businesses, and Oregon Tech employees.
- **Get Involved Pillar:**
  - **Registered Student Organization Management:** Onboarded 60+ student organizations to a new engagement platform that highlights student activities across campus.
    - Along with student organizations: Integrating 7 departments to the system which helps in promoting their student initiatives and activities for the campus community to engage in
  - Over 400 events were hosted to engage our campus community in cultural engagement opportunities. Averaging 30-50 students at the smaller-scaled events and 70+ at larger-scaled events
  - **Student Appreciation:** Collaborated with all of the Student Affairs Division to host a student worker appreciation for 100+ student workers
- **Lead Change Pillar:**
  - 50+ Leadership & Diversity Scholars engaged in a common read, group/individual conversations surrounding identity and how their diverse identities inform the way they lead.



- Community Service: 20 students volunteered at The Gospel Mission preparing and serving dinner for Klamath Fall community members.
- **Embrace Diversity Pillar:** Celebrated/educated campus community on Pride Week, and Native Heritage Month, and brought in guest speakers highlighting marginalized communities. Many of our guest speakers were volunteers from the Klamath Tribes.
  - Over 40 events were hosted to engage our campus community in cultural engagement opportunities. Averaging 10-20 students at the smaller-scale events and 30 at larger-scale events.
  - The Treehouse and SIB hosted a Grand Opening for the Indigenous Relations Room with Klamath Tribes member Shuina Sko sharing their spoken work. This includes the unveiling of the Crater Lake mural in the room. Art pieces and artifacts will rotate annually in this room to highlight indigenous/native communities.
- **Future/in process planning:**
  - Martin Luther King Jr. Week of Service initiatives, Black History Month initiatives, Women's History Month Initiatives.

### **ASOIT: Student Government**

- ASOIT-KF is fully staffed. Seven officers participated in a two-day training in December and are prepared for a robust winter term.
- ASOIT-PM officers completed a successful fall term with training, creating their advocacy platform, hosting open meetings for students, and engaging university stakeholders.

### **SIB Portland-Metro Fall 2024**

- **S.O.A.R Orientation:** Students attended one of two sessions offered. Total attendees included Direct from High School students (54 – 70% of incoming freshman class), Transfers & Post Bac (34), Medical Lab Science (35), and Parents and Supporters (35). This year's orientation expanded to a 4-hour interactive workshop including break-out sessions led by content experts, academic advice from faculty, and utilization of the new academic planner including skill building, time management, resiliency, and goal setting.
- **Week of Welcome – Fall 2024:** Students were encouraged to attend over 10 activities to help them connect to peers, staff, and faculty. Highlights included a Welcome Back lunch attended by all members of the campus community, the Get Involved, Get Connected Fair to learn about the clubs, staff, and resources on campus, and Pancakes and Planners, an ongoing collaboration with Academic Advising and Retention to encourage students to get organized and set goals for the term.
- **Registered Student Organizations/Clubs are Portland-Metro** – Establishment of three new student clubs (1 academic-based & 2 recreation-social). All Portland-Metro clubs

hosted over 75 events through Fall Term providing opportunities for students to connect with their peers.

- **Student Involvement and Belonging Fall Programming** – Coordinated 10 Week of Welcome events, a Family and Alumni program including on-campus mini-golf and an off-campus VIP experience to Cirque du Soleil-Kooza, and 11 other activities demonstrating the Student Involvement and Belonging pillars of *Get Involved* and *Embrace Diversity*. Events included Fall Fest/Dia De Los Muertos, “Let’s Taco ‘Bout Transfer” celebrating the transfer student journey, Red Shawl Day for Native American Heritage Month, and National Coming Out Day.
- **Robotics Competition Club Host 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Middle School and High School Competition** – Almost 200 middle and high school students representing 32 teams competed in an all-day event on Saturday, November 16, 2024. Competitors came from Vancouver, WA to Klamath Falls, OR, and points in between. The Robotics Competition Club coordinated all aspects of the event and members gained career-readiness skills in project management, marketing, budgeting, and decision-making.
- **Student Involvement and Belonging Presents at the 2024 NODA Conference** - The National Orientation Director’s Association (NODA) held its annual conference in Portland November 11-14, 2024. The conference is a learning opportunity for higher education professionals to come together and learn about trends and program strategies around student orientation, transition, and retention. Kim Faks, Assistant Director of Student Involvement and Belonging, Portland-Metro, presented one of NODA’s core competencies, “*Campus Collaboration*” with a session titled [\*Engaging Faculty for Authentic Student Success: Insights from Oregon Tech\*](#). The presentation highlighted the year-round partnership between Student Involvement and Belonging, faculty, and other campus partners toward a similar goal of student success.
- **Student Involvement and Belonging Center at Portland-Metro** (*preparations for Grand Opening Celebration Wednesday, January 8, 2025*) – Transformation of a hallway and open area on the 4th floor into a dynamic and colorful student gathering and workspace featuring new modern furniture encouraging event programming and club collaboration, a large wall decal highlighting student events, and club meeting space utilizing casting technology.

## Tech Nest

Since the Fall term commenced, the Tech Nest Store has sold \$95,00 worth of merchandise. This puts us ahead of total revenue for the same period last year. We are projecting a rise of 20% in total revenue year-over-year through June 30, 2025. January through June are the busiest months for the store.

What do we do here at the Tech Nest? We provide a service. We provide safety, security, and assurance to our students. When students enter the Tech Nest they are welcome! They feel welcome! They are safe! They feel safe! They are assured we will have what they need, at affordable prices and with a commitment to always listen to their needs, wants, and desires! We listen! What do they need? What do they want? How can the Tech Nest help them? How can the University help them? How are they doing? We are always listening and improving based on what they tell us.

Our mission is to provide a safe place for our students to learn, grow, and express themselves! We offer beautiful merchandise at affordable prices. We want the Tech Nest Store to be a great "hangout" space in the CU. Come to the Tech Nest, shop for some merchandise, grab snacks and school supplies, and hang out in our lounge!

## Tech Opportunities Program (TOP)

During the Fall term of 2024, the Tech Opportunities Program (TOP) completed 612 contacts with 146 students, marking it a successful start to their final year of funding for this grant cycle. During the summer, Dahiana Padilla was hired into the open Advisor role complementing Charlotte Waite as she continued in the Lead Advisor role while Desiré Brown was appointed Interim Director leading the team into the first term of a new academic year. The start of the term was met with energy and optimism that flowed through the end of finals and set into motion positive progress within the department.

- TOP boasts two student mentorship programs: TOP Student Success Mentors and TOP Peer Mentors. While the mission of both of their duties revolves around supporting students on a peer-to-peer level, the programs serve two separate demographics of TOP students; those who live on-campus and those who live off campus in the local community. TOP Peer Mentors serve off-campus students with five students employed, overseen by Dahiana Padilla; TOP Student Success Mentors serve on-campus students with five students overseen by Charlotte Waite and Bonita Bontrager. These two programs historically had not collaborated, minimally interacting to help during large TOP events. During the Winter Term of 2024, TOP lost an Advisor leading both groups of Peer Mentors to fall under the direction of Charlotte Waite. This brought more collaboration between the student workers mentoring two different groups. Feedback from the student workers was outstandingly positive about this new culture and mission of collaboration. Upon hiring Dahiana and returning the Peer Mentors under her coordination, new initiatives and structures were created for the mentor programs to continue this collaborative effort. Team meetings for the student groups overlap giving the mentors time to work together planning events and discussing tutoring and mentoring strategies. TOP also subscribed to a learning platform where student mentors can interact with several professional development courses for tutors and

mentors furthering self-growth and giving students opportunities to earn LinkedIn badges for their work.

- First-Generation Celebration Week in November was successful thanks to the collaborative efforts of various Student Affairs departments supporting and acknowledging the success and struggles of First-Generation college students. Starting the week off strong with a t-shirt and coffee handout event and ending it on a high note with dinner with student presentations, the week impacted not just TOP students, but the entire student body as well as staff and faculty. During events such as a hike to the “O” and a TOP alumni panel, students reflected on what being first-generation means to them, finding hope, ideas, and resources to push through challenges and complete their goals of graduating. The week culminated with a full dinner and program of special speeches from first-generation students sharing journeys, advice, and hope. This celebratory week could not be what it is without the collaborative efforts of various departments in Student Affairs specifically SIB and Housing and Residence Life.
- Over 120 of the 146 students the TOP Program serves are federally recognized as low-income. This economic status can put immense strain on students who are dedicated to creating a better life for themselves. Aware of this strain, TOP dedicates time, effort, and thought into how stress can be taken away from students. Before Thanksgiving break, both of TOP’s mentor groups collaborated with Basic Needs to put together 20 meal bags for students to take home to their families or enjoy by themselves to help with meal insecurities. TOP also dedicated a full day for students to drop by for FAFSA assistance after the federal application opened at the end of November. This drop-in experience allowed students to chat with an advisor at a time that was right for them, join in community with other students who are experiencing confusion or difficulty with the application, and submit the application early for first-come-first-serve state or federal aid programs such as Oregon State Opportunity Grant.

## Veterans Services

The first week of 2025, 8 students representing Oregon Tech, 5 from Klamath Falls, and 3 from Portland-Metro, majoring in programs ranging from Renewable Energy Engineering to Cybersecurity and EMT traveled to Colorado Springs, Colorado to attend the 17th Student Veterans of America National Conference.

To reach out to transfer students and those searching for graduate degrees in polytechnic fields, in partnership with the Admissions department, Veteran Student Services sponsored an exhibitor booth to provide information on Oregon Tech academics and student life to increase our military-connected student enrollment. In the lead-up to the event, VSS and SVP coordinated with students from across Oregon's public institutions, establishing Oregon

Tech's booth as the rally point for all students from the state while attending the conference.

The event schedule provided training opportunities in organizational growth within higher education, professional development, and effective networking, among many others. Our student veterans also received access to a VA Claims clinic that provided accelerated evaluation of service-connected injuries enhancing their access to further VA healthcare and education benefits. On the "SVA Campus," our students engaged with employers ranging from the Walt Disney Company, RTX (parent company of Raytheon), Northrop Gruman, and multiple government agencies notably the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Agriculture.

Experiences at this national conference are brought back to our campuses increasing the success of all Oregon Tech students.

The Klamath Falls Veteran Resource Center ended 2024 with an average daily attendance of 19 students, with over 1000 total service encounters during the Fall term. The Portland-Metro VRC posted an average of 4 check-ins per day and a total of more than 200 visits. In regard to the Klamath Falls VRC, the daily average has remained steady for three fall terms in a row.

Evaluating available data demonstrates that the current facility is at capacity and efforts to expand or relocate to a new space on the Klamath Falls campus to offer more space for service-connected students and others to come in and utilize services will continue. With seating and resources limited at Portland-Metro, after 2 years of operation in room 164, investigating alternative spaces within the building will begin soon to establish the feasibility of a new location that can accommodate more students and learning resources.

# Division-wide support for students during fall breaks

## Housing and Residence Life

- Students may stay on campus during breaks at no additional charge.
- Professional staff are on call during breaks for any situations that may arise in the residential facilities. We collaborate with Campus Safety to keep good communication during breaks to ensure student safety.
- Students can put in hours working during breaks—this year we've had two student employees in Housing and Residence Life take advantage of that opportunity over Winter Break.
- Other than the days when the campus is closed, the Housing Office remains open 8:00 am-5:00 pm with emails and phones being answered consistently.
- We continue to process mail during breaks so that residential students can still get their packages and mail.
- Housing shuttles run to and from the Klamath Falls Bus/Train station the days before a break and during the last day or two when students return to campus for the Winter term.
- For the Thanksgiving break, we collaborated with Sodexo, our dining partner, to offer students three to-go meals over the break. Housing pays ½ the cost of residential students and the student pays the other half. This year that cost to students was \$20 for all three meals.

## Klamath Falls Basic Needs Hub

- The Bird Feeder food pantry remains open when the campus is open.
- The Navigator is present for students to reach out about food insecurity needs on both campuses.
- Scarves and gloves are stocked for students in the Clothing Closet to help with preparedness for the winter weather.
- The Navigator worked with the Portland Metro Student Services to ensure the Portland Metro Bird Feeder is stocked over the breaks.

## Portland Metro Student Services

- Bird Feeder Food Pantry is available whenever the building is open.
- Student employees can work during the break periods.
- Offices and services remain open for all students to access during breaks.
- Students may still access and enjoy the facilities during school breaks, including student organization spaces.

## Student Involvement and Belonging (SIB)

At the Klamath Falls campus, the SIB department offers these services for students over the fall breaks:

- Student employees can work during the break periods.
- The SIB office is open during breaks to come in and use the space for whatever students may need
- In collaboration with Housing and Residence Life, we provided a meal to students from a local business on December 31, 2024.

## Tech Opportunities Program (TOP)

TOP is currently serving 146 students of which we do our best to communicate and identify students who are staying on campus for the breaks and/or alone. Encouraging mental wellbeing, we consistently share our hours of operation encouraging students to stop in over break. We also provide meal bags put together by our student mentors in collaboration with the Basic Needs Hub for TOP students and their families. All year long, TOP provides grant funds for students who qualify. This grant allows TOP to help serve students providing them with funds in their time of need.