CENTRAL OREGON
community college

VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTRUCTION
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March 6, 2017

Dear Members of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and Oregon State University Curriculum Committees,

This is a letter of support for the proposed Oregon State University–Cascades Campus undergraduate degree in Elementary Education. Central Oregon Community College (COCC) and OSU-Cascades (OSU-C) have a long history of collaborating in the area of elementary and secondary education programming in the region. The program that OSU-Cascades has developed was planned in coordination with the Early Childhood Education/Education faculty members at COCC. The proposed undergraduate program was designed to ensure a clear pathway for students who transfer from COCC to OSU-Cascades. COCC has an Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree that is designed to align with the proposed degree in Elementary Education at OSU-Cascades. The COCC students who complete the AAOT with a focus on education will meet all of the requirements needed to apply for the OSU-Cascades undergraduate degree in education. They will be able to apply for the degree program in the winter and enter the program as a junior in the fall if they are accepted.

In addition to the strong collaboration with COCC, the Central Oregon region is focused on attracting diverse teacher candidates from Central Oregon. As a partner on the Teach Oregon Central Oregon work, COCC developed a number of recruitment strategies for minority students, including Teacher Cadet programs. Through this regional work, students indicated that needing to complete a bachelor's degree in a different field on the path to Masters of Art in Teaching was too long of a pathway. An undergraduate degree in elementary education would create a seamless pathway for students at the beginning of their college career, be it at the community college or the university.

In summary, COCC supports this degree proposal because we recognize the need for a seamless pathway to degree completion and job attainment in the area of elementary education in our region. We are dedicated to supporting Oregon State University- Cascades as they offer this degree. It is a much needed career pathway for students in this region.

Please feel free to contact me with further questions.

Sincerely,

Betsy Julian

Betsy Julian, Ph.D.
Vice President for Instruction
Central Oregon Community College