Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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2-20-18

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Business Fundamentals graduate certificate at Oregon State University (OSU), College of Business.

I currently serve in two distinct roles in Oregon State Government, both of which are relevant to the proposed graduate certificate. My primary role with the State is that of Quality Assurance Administrator for the Health Services Division of the Department of Corrections (DOC). My secondary role is as an instructor at OSU, teaching BA 540, a Corporate Finance class.

As an Administrator with the DOC, I am privileged to work alongside ~4,500 corrections professionals. Our staff perform difficult work leading, managing, rehabilitating, caring for and protecting people. Our work environment offers extensive opportunities to learn about human behaviors and motivators and develop strong leadership skills. Successful DOC leaders hold promise to benefit our communities through other higher-level management and leadership roles. However, quite often our DOC leaders lack hard business skills such as accounting and finance, law, and operations management, all of which are included in the proposed Business Fundamentals graduate certificate.

As an instructor with OSU I am privileged to teach a Corporate Finance course that includes students from pharmacy, forestry, engineering, and other disciplines. These students have demonstrated the value of business fundamentals. The pharmacy/business collaboration has grown quickly, and for me that highlights the potential for OSU to continue to expand partnerships and collaborations with other non-business disciplines and sectors, both within and outside of the University. The Business Fundamentals graduate certificate would offer a standard, "off the shelf" format through which any interested person or organization could partner with OSU in expanding their business skills.

Education is the granting of freedoms that are wrapped in definitions and rules. The magic of education is not in the definitions and rules, it is in how our students use them to access and expand freedoms for themselves and others for the rest of their lives. In the same way that learning the rules of English sets a person free to speak and write in America, learning business fundamentals frees a person to apply themselves in the American economy. Any education that is lacking business fundamentals is lacking the critical definitions and rules of American society.

In summary, the need for this education is clear, and I urge your acceptance of the proposal for this new graduate certificate in Business Fundamentals.

Sincerely,

Nathan Warren, Quality Assurance Administrator
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