

## **2008 Government-to-Government Report**

### **Oregon University System**

Through participation with the Government-to-Government Education Cluster, the Oregon University System (OUS) continues to interact directly with tribal education representatives to seek input, address areas of interest, and promote postsecondary educational opportunity for Native American students. During 2008, the following advancements were made:

- 1. Student Participation and Completion Initiative** -- Beginning in 2007, the Oregon State Board of Higher Education formed the Student Participation and Completion Committee to work closely with issues of student access and success within OUS institutions and in collaboration with other educational entities across the state. Members of the Education Cluster, the Oregon Indian Coalition on Postsecondary Education, OUS, community college, and K-12 representatives continue to participate with this committee to discuss barriers, determine appropriate initiatives to address educational needs, and engage stakeholders in rural and urban areas throughout the state. Barriers and educational needs of Native American students were initially discussed during a forum in 2007, along with several other forums addressing various demographic groups; during 2008, the Committee developed a report and legislative request to further address barriers to student success.
- 2. Native Languages Initiative** -- In response to a request from the tribes to consider the utilization of native languages for postsecondary admission and graduation requirements, OUS formed a work group to study and develop recommendations on these issues. The work group provided a preliminary response to the tribes (through the Education Cluster) during spring 2008 that outlined the steps to be taken to address these considerations. During the latter part of 2008, OUS representatives, including the director of the Northwest Indian Language Institute (NILI) at the University of Oregon, worked with several tribal representatives to begin the development of generic assessment tools to further assist these language efforts. This work continues as one component that aligns with efforts to assist the tribes with language preservation and instruction. Members of the Education Cluster continue to be apprised of the efforts and progress of the OUS Native language work group.
- 3. Education Cluster Initiatives** -- During fall 2008, OUS hosted a conference call meeting of the Postsecondary Subcommittee of the Education Cluster, including selected tribal and postsecondary representatives. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss recent accomplishments and developments pertaining to postsecondary issues for Native American students, and also to determine a postsecondary agenda for the Education Cluster to pursue during 2009. Representatives of this Subcommittee will report to the larger Education Cluster on initiatives and progress during the year. In addition, OUS provides information to Education Cluster members on a variety of issues including teacher outreach/preparation materials, tuition and fee levels for OUS institutions, etc.

**4. Ongoing Interactions with Tribal Representatives** -- The OUS Government-to-Government key contact presented to the Legislative Commission on Indian Services during fall 2008. The purpose of the presentation was to provide an overview and updates on efforts to further enhance university opportunities for Native American students. Members of the Commission received copies of the OUS Breaking Barriers report, a document that outlines the work and plans of the State Board of Higher Education's Student Participation and Completion Committee. OUS representatives continue to attend the state's annual agency training and Government-to-Government Summit.

**5. The OUS Native American Resource Guide** -- OUS continues to make available, online and in print formats, the OUS Native American Resource Guide. The Guide provides timely overviews of campus initiatives, contacts, and essential information for students seeking education within Oregon's seven public universities. The Guide is updated and disseminated to tribes and education stakeholders by OUS every two years. The fifth edition of the Guide (published in 2007) is available online at [www.ous.edu/programs/commdiv/index.php](http://www.ous.edu/programs/commdiv/index.php) .

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