

2009 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 2009, the following advancements were made:

1. Student Participation and Completion Initiatives --

- A. The Student Participation and Completion Committee of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education continues 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. The educational needs of Native American students continue to be an integral part of the work of this committee.
- B. On November 19, 2009, the committee is hosting "From Day 1 to Degree," a full-day symposium designed to identify issues and best practices associated with pre-college preparation and postsecondary student retention. Members of tribal communities have been invited to attend along with other postsecondary stakeholders from throughout the state. A summary of the symposium proceedings will be shared with members of the Government-to-Government Education Cluster for further discussion in 2010.

- 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) that outlined the steps to be taken to address these considerations, and OUS representatives, including the director of the Northwest Indian Language Institute (NILI) at the University of Oregon, continue to work with several tribal representatives to identify 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. It is anticipated that final recommendations relating to this initiative will be forthcoming within the next few months. Concurrently, the OUS Interinstitutional Council on Admissions and Recruitment (ICAR) is considering changes in the OUS Undergraduate Admission Policy such that native language proficiency can meet some or all of the second language requirements for admission

to an OUS institution, and the OUS Provosts Council is looking at OUS institutions' Bachelor of Arts degree requirements for second language to examine how native language proficiency would meet those requirements as well. Action in both these areas is anticipated in the spring of 2010.

3. **Ongoing Interactions with Tribal Representatives** -- OUS provides university information to tribal representatives as requested, including tuition and fee information, academic program information, and statewide initiatives that support Native American students. OUS representatives continue to participate in the state's annual agency training and Government-to-Government Summit.
4. **The OUS Native American Resource Guide** -- Pursuant to tribal requests for timely and easily accessible information, OUS publishes the OUS Native American Resource Guide. The Guide provides overviews of selected campus initiatives, contacts, and essential information for students seeking education within Oregon's seven public universities. The Guide is updated and disseminated biennially to tribes and education stakeholders by OUS. An updated version of the Guide is planned for release in early 2010.