

Representative Cedric Hayden appointed to The Leadership Council

In the days immediately following the horrific tragedy at Umpqua Community College on October 1, 2015, a number of support groups formed to help navigate the inevitable personal challenges and problems that individuals and in fact the entire Roseburg and Douglas County community would face.

One such group was the Community Healing and Response Team, formed to support victims, support each other, and strengthen the Community. With help from the Governor's office a Leadership Council has been formed to help guide efforts into the future. Representative Hayden sits on this council which includes a broad cross section of EMT first responders, civic and faith community persons, tribal leaders, health professionals, and others.

Umpqua Community College, the site of the massacre, sits along the banks of the beautiful North Umpqua River, a few miles upstream from the childhood home of Representative Hayden. It also lies within the boundaries of Oregon Legislative House District 7, which Hayden represents. As news of the shootings reached him, he wondered how he could best help others cope with this unbelievable event. Quietly attending the public funerals and empathizing with the grieving, he decided to use the resources of his office as best he could, assigning several key staff members including his Chief of Staff and his Health Policy Director to join him in hands on service to The Leadership Council, CHART, and the community. He has also been asked to introduce legislation in the 2017 session of the Legislature to support community efforts to heal and to prepare for the future.

As an example of the fact that "community" extends beyond the boundaries of Douglas County, one of the uniformed State Police officers that patrols the legislative halls and Governor's office stated that he himself was a graduate of Umpqua Community College.