



## **The Honorable Greg Smith**

Oregon House of Representatives  
District 57

For Immediate Release:  
January 7, 2016

# **Eastern Oregon University Returns to College Wrestling**

HEPPNER, Ore. – On Monday, January 11th, at 1:00 pm in Quinn Coliseum, [Eastern Oregon University \(EOU\)](#) is to announce the re-establishment of the EOU Mountaineer Wrestling Program. Funding for the program includes a \$300,000 allocation from the Oregon State Legislature as a result of the hard work of [Representative Greg Smith \(R-Heppner\)](#).

"Eastern Oregon is home to many wrestling champions both on individual and team levels," said Rep. Greg Smith. "EOU is unable to attract these athletes who desire to continue wrestling in college. I believe wrestling will give EOU another tool for recruitment and help keep our youth in Eastern Oregon."

"Representative Greg Smith has been a pivotal person in the effort to restart competitive wrestling at EOU," said Dr. Mike Clock, Chair of Restore College Wrestling Oregon Committee. "Over the past seventeen years, teams from east of the Cascades have won almost 55% of the team titles. Since the late '70s, there have been no geographically convenient opportunities for those young individuals to compete at the college level in Oregon."

"Hermiston is known for our strong wrestling program, and we are proud of it. Eastern Oregon University's decision to create a college wrestling program is a phenomenal opportunity for our kids, and will help them stay in our communities and strengthen local programs."  
Kyle Larson, Head Wrestling Coach, Hermiston High School

"The Mac-Hi wrestling program, along with programs through the region, will benefit from Eastern Oregon University's re-establishment of the wrestling program. We have great athletes that give back to their programs, schools, and communities. They now have the option to stay local while pursuing the sport they love and continue to be part of our Eastern Oregon community." – Chad Kilburg, Head Wrestling Coach, McLoughlin High School

"I feel with the reinstatement of wrestling at Eastern Oregon University, this will further strengthen regional programs and give more Oregonians access to competing in the sport they love. Eastern Oregon high school wrestlers have needed a college wrestling program for years. With its long history of solid individuals and teams at the high school level, I have no doubt EOU will be competitive in no time." – Richard Rockwell, Head Wrestling Coach, Riverside Jr./Sr. High School Wrestling

During the 2015 Legislative Session, Rep. Greg Smith worked with leadership and a group called Restore College Wrestling to find funding to reactivate a wrestling program at Eastern Oregon University, which is Eastern Oregon's only university.

Representative Greg Smith serves as Co-Vice Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee and is a member of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction, which helps appropriate resources throughout the state. Rep. Smith is also an avid supporter of wrestling programs throughout Eastern Oregon and the father of two-time state champion, Ryan Smith.

####

**Contact Info**

Rep. Greg Smith

541-377-0000

P.O. Box 219

Heppner, OR 97836

[rep.gregsmith@state.or.us](mailto:rep.gregsmith@state.or.us)