



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Agenda Item Summary

Agenda Category: Proclamation	Item No:
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Meeting Date: August 29, 2023

Originating Department: BOCC

Issue: In the Matter of Proclaiming commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Oregon Tech.

Background: Read the Proclamation.

Recommended Motion: None. Fiscal Impact: None.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KLAMATH COUNTY, OREGON**

IN THE MATTER OF COMMEMORATING THE)
75th ANNIVERSARY OF OREGON TECH)

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, after World War II, veterans returning home needed access to opportunity and vocational rehabilitation. In 1948, in a vote by the State Board of Education, the University's name was changed to Oregon Technical Institute – also known as OTI or Oregon Tech. In 1966, Oregon Tech received authorization to grant bachelor's degrees and in 1973, the OTI name was changed to Oregon Institute of Technology or OIT, with "Oregon Tech" continued in use to this day; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Tech is designated by law as Oregon's Polytechnic University by the State of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Tech has expanded its education and innovation programs to the Portland-Metro campus in Wilsonville, a Dental Hygiene educational site and clinic in Salem, The Boeing Company in Seattle, the Oregon Manufacturing and Innovation Center R&D in Scappoose, and even further via online programs. Oregon Tech now offers nearly 50 industry-focused undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the areas of engineering, technology, health, business, applied arts and sciences, and related fields. Oregon Tech partners with high schools across the State of Oregon to provide opportunities for students to earn college credit while in high school. Oregon Tech supports STEM programs through partnerships such as the South Metro-Salem STEM partnership; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Tech is home to the Oregon Renewable Energy Center, an applied research center created by the Oregon State Legislature, which speeds the integration and optimization of renewable energy resources with current power generation systems, and accelerates clean energy technologies in collaboration with industry partners; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Tech is committed to its mission to foster student and graduate success by providing a hands-on, project-based learning environment with faculty focused on innovation, scholarship, and applied research. Oregon Tech is committed to its mission to foster diversity and leadership development by offering statewide educational opportunities and technical expertise to meet the current and emerging needs of Oregonians, as well as national and international constituents; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Tech recognizes emerging workforce needs and partners with business and industry to train the next generation of leaders through unique bachelors and graduate degrees in allied health and health science fields, which prepares students for the complexity of the healthcare delivery landscape; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Tech actively supports and rewards innovation and entrepreneurship through university events and competitions such as IdeaFest, Catalyze Klamath, and Ready, Set, Innovate; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Tech continues to serve veterans and military-affiliated students; and

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WHEREAS, Oregon Tech continues to play a vital role in the Silicon Forest, creating a pipeline of highly-skilled workers to sustain the high-tech industry;

WHEREAS, Oregon Tech has consistently ranked number one for the return on investment for students enrolled in four-year colleges and universities, with graduates making the highest earnings in the state relative to investment by students and families; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Tech officially celebrates 75 years of service to Oregon through applied research and hands-on learning on July 14, 2023.

NOW THEREFORE, THE KLAMATH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIMS commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Oregon Tech, and we congratulate the University, more than 20,000 OIT alums, and all Oregonians on this significant public milestone of service, leadership, and contributions to the State of Oregon and Klamath County. Go Owls!

DONE AND DATED this 29th day of August, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair

Vice-Chair

Commissioner

