

Chair Report, Steve Loosley

October 6, 2018

1. **Advocacy.** Dr. Thatcher and I attended Legislative Days in Salem during September. We had the chance to meet with Rep. Reardon, the chair of the Interim House Committee on Workforce Development and Higher Education. Rep. Leif also sits on this committee. We raised the problem that rural community colleges face coming up with the match for capital grants. Unlike our urban friends, poor communities no longer pass school bonds, the funding mechanism of choice.

Rep. Reardon was sympathetic and encouraged us to work with OCCA and with our local legislators to solve the problem. We subsequently met with Representatives Gomberg, Leif, and Brock Smith all of whom were also supportive. During our meeting with Senator Heard, he offered to file a “placeholder” bill to modify the match to allow colleges in poor locations to raise a reduced match.

Lastly, I need to point out the extra efforts Rep. Leif has taken to get up to speed on community colleges. Dr. Thatcher and I attended the Committee on Workforce Development hearing to listen to the Oregon Community College representatives present our ask for the next biennium. During the hearing, Rep. Leif asked the most insightful and probing questions of anyone on the committee. Rep. Reardon even mentioned the plight of rural community colleges to raise the match for capital grants.

Dr. Thatcher and I are fully committed to bring legislative relief to the dollar-for-dollar match so that we can move forward on capital projects without the burden of funding. Please join me in expressing our appreciation to Rep. Leif and Senator Heard for their support. They are working hard for us.

2. **Legion Field turf project.** Guy and I continue helping Craig Jackson and Jeff Admire, the American Legion representative, raise funds for installing artificial turf on Legion Field. The Roseburg City Council approved modifying the city naming policy so that Legion can sell naming rights to the field and dugouts. We’re actively seeking businesses to support the project. A big shout out to Guy for serving as the chair for the project!
3. **UCC Truck Driving Program.** Dr. Thatcher, Ellen Brown, and I met with Susan Buell of UT&E and Andy Owens, the owner of A&M Transport. Ms. Buell has successfully raised considerable local support to provide scholarships to train truck drivers. Andy explained that our rolling stock is old, worn out, and unable to accommodate modern electronics, which are widely used today. I offered to explore raising funds to purchase two late-model trucks for our program. After meeting with The Ford Family Foundation and the Douglas County Industrial Development Board, I remain optimistic. Please feel free to reach out to me for further info and to help with the project.