

Memo

To: George Pernsteiner, Chancellor, Oregon University System
Oregon State Board of Higher Education

From: Dave Frohnmayer
President Emeritus and Professor of Law
Special Assistant to the Chancellor (7/1/09-8/16/09)

Date: 11/18/09

Re: **The Coming Crisis in College Completion: Oregon's Challenge and a Proposal for First Steps**

In pursuit of my assignment to explore alternative models for the higher education system in Oregon, attached is the final paper, *The Coming Crisis in College Completion: Oregon's Challenge and a Proposal for First Steps*.

This paper provides the context from which to begin a review of Oregon University System funding from the state and how the instability and fluctuations in this funding affect student access, success, and completion in Oregon. The demographic data, historical trends, comparisons to other states, and a review of current educational attainment rates all point to a public higher education system in Oregon that is not sustainable.

The proposal to consider a public corporation model for the OUS research universities is one that has been successful both in Oregon (OHSU) and in other states. This paper will hopefully spur dialogue on how we can "fix" the chronic funding issues in Oregon that affect students, the workforce and economy of the state; and will move this concept to action stage so that we can build on the quality institutions we have in Oregon which are now at risk of not being able to serve critical state needs.