

Support low, but quality high, Davis says of Oregon colleges

By Randy Elliott
Of the Emerald

William Davis, chancellor of the Oregon State System of Higher Education, said Tuesday in Eugene that Oregon must give more support to higher education if it wants to remain competitive with other universities in the nation.

"Support for higher education in Oregon is pretty low," Davis said at a Rotary Club luncheon. "The University of Oregon ranks 97th compared to other doctoral institutions in the nation in terms of average faculty salary and 45th out of the 50 states in terms of increased appropriations for higher education over the last 10 years," he said. "And Oregon stands alone among western states in not appropriating funds for women's sports."

Despite the lack of support from the state, Davis believes the quality of higher education in Oregon is high. Over the last four years Oregon's colleges and universities have improved their standards, resulting in increased college board scores. They have recorded an 8 percent increase in enrollment in the state's institutions of higher learning while the number of high school graduates in Oregon high schools decreased by 8 percent.

In fact, the University is now capped, and Davis commended President Paul Olum and the University administration for the high quality of education that he believes is respon-

sible for increased enrollment.

Profits also have increased, largely through alliances with Oregon businesses and the \$130 million per year generated through contracted research.

Two years ago, Centers of Excellence were established by the Legislature and the State Board of Higher Education. Among these is the molecular biology research facility at the University, which Davis predicts will make the University a leader in the field within the next decade. The construction of new facilities will contribute more to the Oregon economy than the original \$12 million appropriation, he said. He added that \$120 million already has been generated through outside investment in the research facilities.

Speaking about the future of higher education in Oregon, Davis said, "We need to strive to be competitive with states similar in resources and population to Oregon, and if we want to remain competitive with other Pac-10 schools, in athletics as well as academically, we have to overcome our unwillingness to finance our institutions of higher education."

Davis said he is confident that Gov. Neil Goldschmidt is committed to economic development and also to strong basic school support and support for higher education.

A greater Oregon can be achieved, but only with the help of Oregon businesses, communities and the Legislature, Davis said.

Et al.

MEETINGS

Peace Week Steering Committee meeting, 4 p.m. in Century Room B, EMU.

Students interested in the University eight-week summer foreign-study program at the Italian University for Foreigners, Perugia, Italy, are invited to an informational meeting today at 4:30 p.m. in Room 244 Gilbert. Prior knowledge of some Italian is preferred, but not required.

College Republicans will meet today at 5 p.m. in Century

Room E, EMU.

Mortar board meets tonight at 6 at Guido's.

OSPIRG, the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group, will hold a campus meeting with Oregon State Senator and former Speaker of the House Grattan Kerans. OSPIRG's legislative priorities program will be presented, and Kerans will give his perspective on the 1987 Legislature. The meeting will be held in Room 108, EMU tonight at 7. The event is free. For more information, call OSPIRG at 686-4377.

MISCELLANEOUS

Eight delegates to the U.S.-El Salvador "In Search of Peace" conference will present a slide show and discussion of their impressions and understandings following their participation in this conference, tonight at 7:30 in Room 177, Lawrence Hall.

Learn how the Career Planning and Placement Services can help you and your career. A CPPS orientation is offered today at 2 p.m. in Room 237, Hendricks Hall.

Bill to prohibit wearing of headphones

SALEM — Music lovers may want to buy some car stereo equipment if a Senate bill introduced Tuesday passes.

Senate Bill 235 would prohibit the wearing of headphones or earplugs while operating a motorized vehicle, including motorcycles and scooters, on the highway. Violation would result in a Class D felony and a \$50 fine.

The law would not apply to emergency vehicle operators during emergency situations or to those whose employment requires them to wear a safety headset or safety earplugs on the job.

The bill was introduced at the request of the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation in response to testimony provided in July by Forrest Soth, a Beaverton City Council member.

"His concern was that when you're driving a vehicle and you're listening to other things than traffic sounds, your attention isn't where it should be," said Sen. Jane Cease of Portland, chairwoman of the Senate Transportation Committee.

"The committee decided that yes, there could be a problem," she said.

"A motorist or bicycle rider who cannot hear emergency sirens, horns or klaxons not only endangers him or herself, but also puts others at risk due to having to take evasive action to avoid collision," Soth said.

The legislation would not apply to bicyclists. Both California and New Jersey have similar regulations, as well as several cities.

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