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University

Report addresses higher ed needs Portland-area potential studied by commission

By Stephanie Holland
Emerald Reporter

The University can help strengthen higher education in Portland without weakening its own resources, University officials said in response to a concept paper recently released by the Governor's Commission on Higher Education in the Portland Metropolitan Area.

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt appointed the commission in May 1989 to assess what is needed of higher education in Portland.

The concept paper is a preliminary report of the commission's findings on Portland's social and economic potential.

The paper states five central needs that must be addressed by higher education institutions in the Portland area.

- The health of Portland's economy and society will require locally-oriented educational resources.

- The commission believes that during the next 20 years current educational resources must be increased by 40 per-

cent to remain at today's level.

- Institutions must be aggressive in making it possible for minorities and low-income students to attend college.

- The region must substantially increase graduate education and research related to regional needs. Portland lags behind national and western state averages for bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees, according to the report.

- The Portland area must link institutions into a coordinated system of higher education with common objectives that meet regional needs.

As one of the eight schools in the Oregon State System of Higher Education, the University must play a part in helping to revitalize higher education in Portland, University President Myles Brand said.

"We must find a way to contribute to Portland and continue to enhance our campus at the same time," he said.

The state can expect a 60 percent population growth in Portland during the next decade, Brand said. Therefore, it would be naive to think Portland does not need a strong educational facility, he said.

"We can be especially helpful in providing selective cooperative graduate or professional programming in Portland," Brand said.

Rep. Carl Hosticka, D-Eugene, a University professor and coordinator of the University's Portland services, said he does not believe the emphasis



Myles Brand

on strengthening higher education in Portland and at Portland State University will segregate sections of the state.

"The issue is not how to strengthen PSU," Hosticka said. "The issue is how to address the educational needs of Portland."

The University, and other state institutions, could help by sending professors in the professional schools to Portland.

"We are not able now to deliver programming in Portland without diluting what we have here, so the state must provide funding for that additional programming," Brand said.

Hosticka agreed with Brand that new programs in Portland depend on new money.

Roger Edgington, interim president at Portland State University, said PSU is considering a merger with Oregon Health Sciences University.

As a larger institution, the merger would probably attract more grants and outside money, Edgington said.

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