

Hosticka maintains political, professorial lives

By Rene DeCair
Emerald Reporter

People make lots of jokes when they learn Carl Hosticka has two careers, one as a University associate professor and one as a state representative from District 40 in Eugene, he says.

Fellow legislators laugh when they learn his job in the "real world" is in academics, and his colleagues in the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management think it's funny that he has a "real" job in politics as a legislator.

"You can make lots of jokes about it," said Hosticka, a Democrat

Hosticka entered politics in 1983 when he was elected to represent District 40. As a professor observing the world of state politics, he thought, "It might be easier to get in there and do it myself," he said.

He has worked as a state representative ever since.

Hosticka said now his two jobs work well together because

he teaches about public policy in his classroom and then implements his theories in the House.

"It's good to have the variety," he said. "I like to see both the practical world and the theoretical world."

Hosticka served during the last biennium as the House majority leader and was also a member of the Environment and Energy, Intergovernmental Affairs, and Revenue and School Finance committees.

Rep. Peter Courtney, D-Keizer, who replaces Hosticka as the party leader to serve as House minority leader in this coming session, said he sees Hosticka as not only a very intelligent man, but one whose personality is different from his own.

"He has an ease about him that I don't have," Courtney said. "We're dramatically different people."

Courtney said the Legislature benefits from Hosticka's knowledge about economics and that he plans to rely on Hosticka's



Carl Hosticka

wisdom as a caucus leader.

"I don't think there's a finer mind in the Legislature or in the capitol," he said.

Rep. Ron Cease, D-Portland, who worked with Hosticka on the Environment and Energy Committee also speaks highly of Hosticka, claiming that he is a man who is very concerned about environmental, consumer and women's issues.

"I have a lot of respect for Carl. He's a good, solid liberal to moderate representative ... He's the type that knows how to negotiate," Cease said.

Considering that Hosticka is well respected and that he seems to enjoy his job as a representative, it seems only natural that he would remain in politics for years to come. However, because political cam-

paigns are "getting uglier and uglier" and less focused on issues, he is not making any speculations about his political future.

"I take it year by year now. ... If anything knocks me out of this career, it will be because I'm fed up with what you have to go through (to get elected)," he said.



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