

State board discusses how to make college more accessible

■ **SCHOOL:** Board examines strategies to improve higher education, chairman says

By Regina Brown
Higher Education Reporter

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education looked for ways to find a common goal for the future of the Oregon State System of Higher Education at a work session in the EMU Ballroom last Friday.

The board listened as guest speaker John Bernard, an executive vice president and co-founder of World Class Manage-

ment Inc. in Portland, discussed ideas to help them develop a strategic plan based on the 2010 Vision, which will help the state system meet the future needs of Oregonians.

The vision for 2010 aims to restructure higher education in Oregon within 20 years to make college accessible to more people.

Chancellor Joseph Cox said he wants the board to take a new approach to learning and to consider structural changes that will improve OSBHE.

Board members need to approach high-

“If [students] don't get the quality of education they need ... their lives are going to be hurt in a major way.”

— Les Swanson
OSBHE chair

er education differently than they have in the past, Bernard said.

This can only be done by looking at new processes for educating Oregon's col-

lege students, he said.

Bernard encouraged board members who attended the work session to suggest areas where higher education could be improved.

Board Chairman Les Swanson expressed concern that students who want to go to college will not be able to. He said he fears this could affect quality of life.

“If [students] don't get the quality of education they need ... their lives are going to be hurt in a major way,” Swanson said.

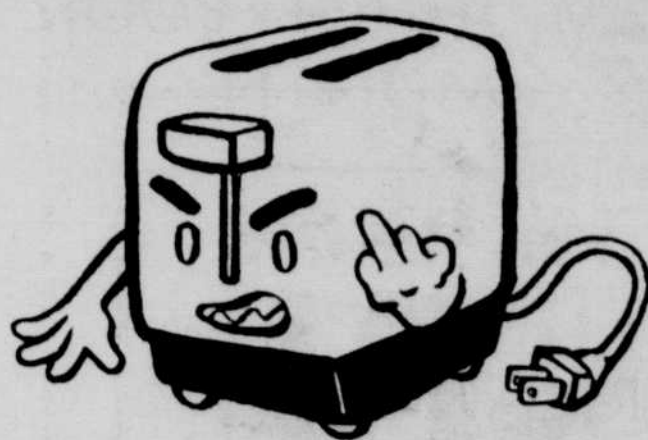
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Paulus: Senate candidate wants to raise educational standards in U.S.

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Paulus, who is currently serving as the state superintendent of public instruction, said that throughout her political career, education has been her number one priority. She thinks the education of citizens is vital for America.

“A literate society to keep the democratic process flourishing and a skilled and literate work force to keep the economy going — they are the best defense we could have of America,” Paulus said.

To improve the educational system in this country, Paulus is raising the standards and trying to connect the educational system to the work place. She said that this is where the technology is.

“All students regardless of what their aspirations are will have to have more interaction with technology, lasers, robotics and computational equipment,” she said. “We can't afford to put it in all of our schools because

“All students regardless of what their aspirations are will have to have more interaction with technology, lasers, robotics and computational equipment.”

— Norma Paulus
Senate candidate

technology is changing so rapidly, so we must therefore necessarily view the work place as an extension of the classroom.”

She said students are eligible voters and that they have a responsibility to participate in the political process.

The Oregon economy needs to continue to diversify, she said. If we have a skilled, literate work force and have improved the public school system, then the state will be able to attract and retain businesses that pay high wages.

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