

OSSHE works to meet four goals for future

■ **OBJECTIVES:** Efforts to teach computer science on a statewide basis are cited as models for OSSHE plans

By Tamyra Howser
In-Depth Higher Education Reporter

Changes to improve higher education opportunities are underway at the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

These objectives were instigated when the property tax initiative Measure 5 passed in 1990, said OSSHE Board President Les Swanson Jr.

"The board decided to plan for the future," he said. "We couldn't sit around here licking our wounds. We need to best utilize our resources for the best education for young people."

Last spring the board set four goals: to make Oregon public higher education internationally competitive; to develop statewide opportunities; to support Oregon's position as an economic and social leader; and to ensure effective operations for campuses and OSSHE as a whole.

To achieve these goals, OSSHE created 17 solution teams. One of these teams wrote the proposed consolidation of Oregon State University's and Portland State University's engineering departments.

This proposal was a perfect example of OSSHE's goals, Vice Chancellor Shirley Clark said.

"It relates to our quality [goal], ... accessibility, ... and definitely fits into supporting Oregon's position as an economic leader," Clark said. "The industry is looking for [in-state workers] and we want to be as responsive as can be."

The board has also been considering the University's proposed computing school that would combine the University's, Oregon State's and Portland State's computer science departments. Although the board is interested in the idea, there is no commitment, Clark said.

"It is a model for OSSHE's objectives," she added.

Another solution team project is the virtual university.

"One solution team is creating a virtual university in the eastern Oregon area ... that will enhance telecommunication," Swanson said. "Students from 150 miles away from campus can take classes via computer."

Other solution teams are the graduate education and research project, led by University President Dave Frohnmayer. Frohnmayer's team will study statewide graduate programs.

"The whole idea is to single out those graduate programs that have a good opportunity for excellence," Swanson said. "They're looking for graduate programs that are needed, which are not in existence. They're also seeking new graduate [program] direction."

World AIDS Day



ANDREW BRACKENSICK/Emerald

A tree decorated with condoms and ribbons with the names of AIDS victims stands in the EMU courtyard for World AIDS day. Activities included a musical performance and speeches by people who are HIV positive.

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