

University hosts symposium

Business and community members will gather to discuss their impact on the environment

By Kristy Hessman
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University will host its fourth annual Sustainable Business Symposium today through Sunday with the hope of challenging businesses, government and private citizens to understand the impact of their daily routines on the environment.

Organizers hope the free event will create a forum for dialogue among business members, community members and students who are concerned with business practices and the effects of consumption on the environment.

Guest speakers, panel discussions and classes will provide venues for participants to learn how to maintain profits while working to retain quality of life for themselves and the earth.

Vera Kewene, a member of the symposium's board of directors, said there are two main purposes for the symposium.

"It is a forum where local business people can come together to learn from others who have had success," she said, "and it also provides our students exposure to real-world problems and issues."

While the event is geared toward local Eugene issues, people from all over the state participate, Kewene said.

Last year more than 1,000 people attended the symposium, said Kathy Lynn, a member of the board

of directors.

"A neat mix of people from all over Oregon and a nice draw from campus came," she said.

A number of keynote speakers will address a variety of issues throughout the weekend.

"The University of Oregon is a mecca for environmental issues," keynote speaker Sanford Lewis said. "I am glad to be attending and look forward to an exciting discussion."

Lewis is an environmental attorney with 18 years of experience in

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Vera Kewene
symposium board of directors member

environmental law and policy, including 16 years of work on public campaigns. His said his work bridges community and environmental groups, investors, labor unions and businesses in the effort to find ecological sanity, fairness and accountability.

Lewis said his Saturday evening speech in the EMU Ballroom will address the need for a new set of corporate requirements to ensure a

sustainable economy.

He said his chief focus will be on "how emerging science and human rights issues can be advanced with a strengthened public right to know."


To illustrate his point, he said, he will provide several examples of corporate disinformation on the environment and sustainability.

Featured keynote speaker Jennifer Allen will also draw on career experience in sustainable business research for her Friday night speech. Allen is a sustainable business liaison for the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department. Part of her role is to provide outreach and support to a broad range of businesses that practice sustainability, including those in the areas of forestry, industry and even tourism.

In her speech, Allen will discuss what her department and others are doing to promote sustainable business practices. Allen also expressed positive comments concerning the fact that a university is hosting the symposium. "Universities have a critical role to play as partners with businesses and communities in framing and answering the questions that arise as we work toward sustainability," she said. "This symposium helps build that bridge."

The symposium was first held on campus four years ago, when law student Alex Tynberg felt there was a need for students to know about sustainable business practices. The event has since moved from the law school to the college of business, and is coordinated entirely by volunteers and students in the business school.

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Need a reason to vote? Here are 7.

Here are seven ballot measures that could profoundly affect the cost and quality of post-secondary education in Oregon. Information based on the Oregon Voter's Pamphlet and the nonpartisan Legislative Revenue Office.

Ballot Measure 7:

Requires the state to pay a property owner if a law or regulation reduces property value.

This measure could cost the state \$1.6 billion per year, and local governments \$3.8 billion per year, which could reduce funding available for post-secondary education.

Ballot Measure 8:

Measure limits state spending based on past personal income.

This measure could cut state spending on education and other programs by \$5.7 billion dollars for 2001-2003.

Ballot Measure 9:

Prohibits public schools from encouraging, promoting, or sanctioning homosexuality or bisexuality.

Would affect colleges and universities and the information that can be discussed or provided about sexual orientation. Community colleges could lose funding for violations.

Ballot Measure 88:

Increases the maximum deductible on Oregon income taxes for federal income taxes paid.

Provided by the Oregon Student Association, a coalition of student governments.

(503) 286-0477.

This measure would cut the state general fund (the budget funding community colleges and public universities) by \$168 million in the 2001-03 and \$259 million in 2003-05.

Ballot Measure 91:

Measure makes federal income taxes fully deductible on state income taxes.

This measure could cut state spending by \$1.6 billion to \$2 billion for 2001-2003 cutting money available for education funding.

Ballot Measure 93:

Requires vote on most tax and fee increases except tuition.

This measure could increase the cost of elections and makes tuition one of the few fees that would be easy to increase.

Ballot Measure 98:

Prohibits using public resources for political purposes.

This measure could affect the ability of student governments and others in public education from advocating for issues like funding for community colleges and universities.

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