



GOV. BROWN TAKES QUESTIONS FROM JOURNALISTS AFTER HER SPEECH AT CHURCHILL HIGH SCHOOL



BRENT WALTH, STANDING, INTRODUCES GOV. KATE BROWN TO HIS UO JOURNALISM CLASS

Photographs by Todd Cooper

jurisdictions more tools in ways that will encourage the development of more affordable housing and really focus on our children making sure that we get our kids off the streets and into warm, dry safe places.”

Brown said more preventative measures like rental assistance and bonding affordable housing are needed to keep people from becoming homeless.

In the past year, Eugene has seen an increase in hate incidents and a rise in the white nationalist movement. I asked Brown what she would say to people in Oregon to make sure that they feel safe.

Brown said reporting incidents of hate crime is important. “And one of the most recent examples we had of this was the TriMet light rail incident, where there was a fellow harassing and making horrible comments to two young Muslim women,” she said of the May 26 murders in Portland.

“As you recall, the three men that stood up and they ended up fighting — two of them lost their lives over that — but I think it’s really important in our classrooms and our day to day lives when we hear people, children, adults, making derogatory comments, discriminatory comments, being hateful, that we just say this is not okay.”

Our interview wrapped up with a discussion about Trump’s “shithole countries” comment.

“First of all, it is absolutely appalling that he made those comments,” Brown said. “I think that Oregon and the United States are better served when we are welcoming to our immigrant and our refugee communities. Just to give you a small snapshot, I think we have about 11,000 or 12,000 Dreamers in Oregon.”

Brown added that Dreamers are important to the community, saying they’ve “contributed several hundred million dollars to the economy. I met this young Dreamer who is now a senior in a dental program, and he’s going to graduate this spring and become a dentist. He has no clue what is going to happen to him.”

“But we need more bilingual dentists,” Brown said as she tapped the table. “Right?”

Before leaving for Bend that afternoon, Brown talked about not wanting people in our communities to live in fear.

“For me it’s about building a beloved community and literally figuring out how we incorporate all of Dr. Martin Luther King’s dream and a culture of nonviolence,” she said. “It’s not going to take just [the] governor and Legislature; it’s going to take community organizations; it’s going to take individuals to make that change.”

Brown will have a chance to continue to work on key issues in Oregon as she runs to keep her position as governor.

Oregon’s gubernatorial election will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018. Seven candidates have filed to run as Republicans, including Buehler. Kate Brown is the only Democrat who has filed to run. ■

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