

University Fall Tours taking place now for high school students

Thousands of high school students across Oregon will learn about their in-state college options over the next month as admissions representatives from Oregon's public universities kick off their annual Visitation Program. A statewide tour to engage and inspire Oregon's high school students to explore their many degree opportunities, the Oregon University System's (OUS) month-long "Fall Tour" launches on September 24 and runs through October 26.

Tour leaders expect to serve approximately 25,500 students this year through the outreach events, an anticipated increase of about 5,000 students from last year's program. Oregon high schools students from 265 participating public and private high schools will take part in Tour presentations, and students and school leaders are

encouraged to mark their calendars to be sure they don't miss the events serving their area.

The public universities have coordinated the Fall Tour for over 25 years, and the presentations are important events for Oregon high schools across the state. Admissions representatives from the seven OUS institutions and one branch campus tour by van from Astoria to Lakeview providing key college information to high school students to encourage them to explore their college options. In addition to visiting participating high schools in Southern Oregon, Central Oregon, Eastern Oregon, the Oregon coast, Willamette Valley and the Portland Metropolitan area, the tour also includes "Campus Plan" events, at which multiple high schools visit an OUS campus to partici-

pate in the Fall Tour presentations. Oregon high schools that are not currently on the schedule of visitations, as well as home schooled students, are encouraged to attend one of the Campus Plan presentations.

Joe Holliday, OUS assistant vice chancellor for student success initiatives, praised the admissions leaders for this successful annual collaboration: "The Fall Tour gives high school students a chance to ask questions and meet representatives from every Oregon public university in one day, and to go home not only more informed but also inspired about their college futures. This is a great collaboration among the campuses that promotes opportunity for Oregon students across the state."

At each tour event, students learn about the unique offer-

ings of Oregon's campuses as well as admissions guidelines, financial aid information, college costs, and program offerings that can help and inspire them while planning for the future. Students learn from a general college preparatory presentation, have the opportunity to ask questions of campus representatives, and receive materials including the OUS Viewbook and campus brochures. The Viewbook, also available as an e-book online at www.ous.edu, provides prospective freshman and transfer students a comprehensive overview of Oregon's public university options, including profiles of each institution, a listing of all academic programs, and information on applying, costs, deadlines, and financial aid opportunities.

Melissa Trifiletti, director of new student programs at Portland State University, and chair of the committee that leads the Tour, said, "The Fall Tour is a great opportunity for the seven public Universities to engage with students about finding the right college fit, and an important collaboration with our high school partners. The Oregon University System is fortunate to have a variety of unique in-

stitutions from small to large, rural to urban, and we encourage Oregon high school students to take advantage of in-state tuition rates, as well as the tremendous range of programs, campuses, and opportunities right here in their home state."

The Tour is also a long-standing collaboration between Oregon high schools and all of the OUS campus admissions personnel to expand students' awareness of the wide variety of diverse and quality programs that Oregon's public universities offer. The responsibility for coordinating the Fall Tour currently rotates among OUS campuses every two years, with Western Oregon University coordinating the events for 2012. The OUS Chancellor's Office partners with the universities to develop materials and disseminate information about the events. OUS, community colleges and private partners also collaborate to coordinate a similar tour but for prospective community college transfer students, Oregon Transfer Days, which will kick off in the Winter of 2013. A schedule of Oregon Transfer Days events is available at: oracrao.org/oregon-transfer-days/.

VHS Cross Country team excels at meet

The Vernonia High School Cross Country Team attended the Oregon Episcopal School Invitational meet on September 18. There were 13 schools participating, with many of the best runners in the state in attendance, according to Coach Byron Brown.

Samantha Lindauer had a stunning win in the girls race in only her second cross country race. In her first race, she finished second overall in the 3A/2A/1A pre-district meet at the Tualatin Hills Sports Complex. Said Brown, "It is virtually impossible to overstate what

Sammy has already accomplished this season. In just two races, she has established herself as one of the very best in the state. We are so lucky to have her because she usually plays volleyball in the fall. She is a prime example of what can happen when you combine great talent with hard work. Our team is fortunate to have two of the best runners in the state with Lindauer and Nathan Fleck.

Maina Martin from France and Rowan Cheney also ran good races for the girls. Jacob Medaris ran a great race, fin-

ishing 11th overall while Fleck managed to finish 14th despite feeling under the weather. Dan Rice, Dylan Shay and Drew Cheney also ran very well for the team. The girls team finished fifth out of 13 overall and the boys team was fourth overall.

The next two local events will be on October 6 at 9:30 a.m. against Banks High School at Stub Stewart park, and the Vernonia Invitational on October 18 starting at 4:00 p.m.

Put this new date for Senior Presentations on your calendars

Save the date! Senior presentations at Vernonia High School will take place on Wednesday, January 9, (new date) this year.

The tentative schedule is 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. for Class of 2013 senior presentations, arena style, and the public is welcome. From 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. there will be senior speeches with only judges invited.

Questions, comments or concerns can be directed to Rachel Wilcoxon at 503-429-1333, ext. 1383, or via email at rwilcoxon@vernonia.k12.or.us.

Pet of the Month

*Find the pet that's right for you at the Columbia Humane Society
2084 Oregon Street, St. Helens. Phone 503-397-4353
Open Mon - Fri 1 pm to 5 pm & Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm*



Hi! My name is Ribsy! I am a neutered, adult male, miniature poodle mix. My owner's had to surrender me to the shelter because they had to move into a home with other family and could not keep me. I'd love to come live with you and keep you company. My identification number is 4921446.

The Columbia Humane Society is a No-Kill non-profit shelter dedicated to helping friends find each other since 1985.

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Vernonia School activities for October

- Oct. 11 – VES Open House
- Oct. 15-19 – VHS Homecoming Week
- Oct. 15 Powderpuff FB
- Oct. 16 Volleybuff
- Oct. 17 Coronation
- Oct. 19 Football, Senior Night and Dance
- Oct. 20 – Vernonia PTA Carnival