

We would like to take this opportunity to update the community on Oregon State University's progress toward its goal of providing a universally accessible campus. Many actions have been taken as we strive to achieve this important goal and more steps are planned.

First, our Accessible University Advisory Committee, which includes students, employees and community members with disabilities, has been hard at work developing a five-year accessibility improvement plan. The plan will help to identify and prioritize improvements that offer the greatest benefit. For example, one of the highest priorities being discussed is completion of an integrated grid of accessible pathways of travel throughout campus, thereby connecting parking, pathways and building entrances. We welcome and encourage comment from the community on this five-year plan, and will publicize a draft of the plan when it is ready.

Second, over the past several years the University has dedicated substantial resources to numerous accessibility improvements to parking facilities, pathways of travel and classrooms. You can review these improvements and more specific details about planned projects by visiting our website: <http://oregonstate.edu/accessibility/recent>.

Third, in order to continue such improvements, the University will dedicate 10 percent of the deferred maintenance funds it receives from the 2013 Legislature to pay for stand-alone accessibility projects. This 10 percent commitment is in addition to the projects already in progress that will significantly enhance accessibility at Oregon State, including, but not limited to the following: Strand Ag Hall remodel, Memorial Union East Wing remodel, Washington Way improvements, the new Student Experience Center, OSU's four new cultural centers, the new Austin Hall and a new classroom building. We hope to learn the amount of legislative funding sometime next June or July.

And in addition to on-going work to identify and implement accessibility improvement projects, we have taken many steps to increase our organizational capacity and focus on accessibility:

- Developed additional standards for selection of architects with accessibility experience.
- Developed best practices for new construction that go beyond ADA requirements.
- Completed the first phase of a comprehensive, above and beyond compliance, assessment of the entire OSU campus.
- Implemented 16 out of the 20 recommendations that came out of the recent assessment (<http://oregonstate.edu/accessibility/assessment>), including:
  - Instituted a new secondary review of building design plans and construction to be done by firms with accessibility expertise.
  - Developed campus standards for design of elements such as sidewalks, street crossings, ramps, benches and picnic tables.
- Focus on implementing the 4 long-term goals remaining, including: providing an accessible route into every building, providing wayfinding signage and connecting parking spaces to accessible routes.

Clearly, we have much more to do to realize our aspiration of universal accessibility. Along the way, we will provide periodic updates such as this and by updating the University's accessibility website. If you have any questions about our recent efforts or future plans, please contact the Office of Equity and Inclusion.

Sincerely,

Mark McCambridge  
Vice President  
Finance and Administration

Angelo Gomez  
Interim Executive Director  
Office of Equity and Inclusion

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