Sent:	Wednesday, July 31, 2013 7:44 AM
To:	Inform-C06 (Classified); Inform-C07 (Professional Faculty); Inform-C08 (Instructors, Research Associate/Assistant); Inform-C09 (Professors, Associate/ Assistant)
Subject:	Accessibility Update

July 31, 2013

To the OSU Community:

Universal access is and will continue to be one of Oregon State University's top priorities, and it is part of a larger goal in creating a university that works optimally for all. We would like to take this opportunity to update the community on Oregon State University's progress since our last message toward the goal of providing a universally accessible campus.

First, if you are on campus in Corvallis, you've been seeing a lot of construction. Many of these projects are directly related to accessibility. In the near future, many buildings will have improved accessible entrances: Moreland, Plageman Student Health Center, Withycombe, ALS, Dryden, and eventually the MU. Accessible parking is being added or improved at Withycombe, Dryden, Cordley, and in-between Langton and Waldo to replace those spaces removed for the SEC project. New construction such as the Centro Cultural César Chávez and the Lonnie B. Harris Black Cultural Center will greatly improve access to those programs, the New Student Residence Hall has been planned so that every room can be accessible, and the Student Experience Center has already broken ground. Details about additional projects are on the Accessibility website. Additionally, the university has implemented process changes to improve campus accessibility, including the following:
- Employing a dedicated ADA project manager (for construction related projects),
- Conducting third-party ADA reviews of capital construction designs and completed projects,
- Prioritizing ADA expertise as a selection criteria for project designers and architecture firms,
- Creating and updating best practices for architects and contractors to follow.

Second, the Accessible University Advisory Committee has put a lot of time and effort into helping the university create a Comprehensive Accessibility Plan for the Built Environment. This plan is currently in draft form, and we're asking for your input before it is finalized. In total, the plan strives for the university to prioritize accessibility improvements to achieve certain goals within five years. If you are interested, please read the plan and visit the website to offer comments. When the plan is finalized, we will also provide notice to the community and will continue to update you on its implementation. Toward these goals, the university has prioritized learning more about the state of campus accessibility. In 2011, the university hired an accessibility expert consultant, who has recently started phase two of a comprehensive, above and beyond ADA compliance, assessment of internal spaces around campus. This consultant is currently assessing Kidder, Gilbert, and Fairbanks. Once the assessments are complete, the reports will be posted on the accessibility website.

Third, the university has recently updated its Policy of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability. This policy, as well as all other university policies and guidance related to accessibility and persons with disabilities, are now housed on the accessibility website. Important pieces of guidance to highlight are the updated Accessible Event Planning materials, including what information must be on event advertisements. This guidance replaces what some might remember as the "Provide Notice of Access" guidance.

As stated in our last message, clearly we have much more to do to realize our aspirations of universal accessibility, work that will benefit the entire community. The progress outlined in this message helps us move forward in a significant and positive way, but it will take all of us, working proactively together, to make our university work for all.

Sincerely,

Glenn Ford   Angelo Gomez
Vice President   Executive Director
Finance and Administration   Office of Equity and Inclusion