

Oregon

STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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July 2, 1985

The Honorable Victor Atiyeh
Governor
254 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Governor Atiyeh:

Sometime, in years to come, I think you will look back on these past few months and count your triumphs in higher education as some of the high points in your tenure as Governor. Certainly, you will be leaving a lasting legacy to the state that will benefit its citizens and enrich their lives for generations to come.

Years after you and I and all of us here now are gone, the buildings and programs will remain. Consider the structures and libraries and programs established at Oxford and Cambridge in the 12th century which still bear the names of their donors and benefactors.

You not only steered your program for higher ed through the rocks and shoals of a session, but you made other people feel good about what they were doing. It seemed that they were looking for something they could be for. And as the session came to an end and the bills were rolling, there was a feeling of excitement and high accomplishment.

Many highlights could be cited, beginning with your putting on the white hat and saddling up more than 18 months ago, saying you didn't want to just spend more money to do the same things. You wanted a plan for higher education that would stimulate enthusiasm and adventure. You tied higher ed to the building blocks for economic development and forged a powerful alliance between industry and the state campuses.

As the plan evolved, it contained construction of modern science and engineering and international centers, program enhancement for centers of excellence in the research fields, expansion of the strengths in agriculture and forestry, funds for common sense maintenance and replacement of equipment. And your personal leadership resulted in salary adjustments for faculty to make it possible for our colleges and universities to compete on a selective basis for the best.

You can also be pleased that in three of the last four years that you were governor, there will be a tuition freeze for students with only a modest 3% increase the other year.

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Your Governor's Education Mission to the eight state system campuses focused media attention on the entourage of distinguished Oregon leaders who took four days from their schedule to personally observe the existing excellence of these institutions and their potential for the future. Better than that, you took four days of your time during the heat and fever of the session to lead the parade yourself.

When times got tough and discouraging, I recall your pulling me into your office and saying, "Davis, we're going to win. Don't blink!" I have gone so long without blinking that my eyeballs ache. But you were right all along. We did win.

To say that the students and faculty and many constituencies of these institutions are grateful would be an understatement. They are elated. The recognition of their contributions and potential is almost as valuable as the funding improvements. Morale is high.

Now comes the tough part. It is up to us in higher ed to justify this confidence and show the state that its Governor and legislature made a wise investment. We'll put these resources to work with elan and dogged determination.

As the Chinese general, Sun Tzu, said in his treatise in The Art of War: "The onrush of a winning force is like the bursting of pent-up waters into a chasm a thousand fathoms deep."

This will be a busting forth that you and Oregon will remember and a glowing chapter in the distinguished achievements of Governor Atiyeh.

With thanks and warmest regards,

Sincerely,



William E. Davis
Chancellor

cc: Members, Board of Higher Education
Loren L. Wyss
Robert C. Ingalls
Jane H. Carpenter

bcc: Wil Post
Larry Pierce
Wayne Kurlinski

*[Original filed under
Gov. Correspondence.]*