

# Oce

WINTER '85

ALICE A. PRAEL  
6230 NE 22ND  
PORTLAND, OR 97211



On the cover —

Governor Victor Atiyeh and his wife, Delores, received Western Oregon 'wolf hats' when they visited the campus in January. Atiyeh presented his sales tax plan at a dinner on economic development and President Meyers explained Western's role. Pictured above (l-r) are Mrs. Atiyeh, Dr. Meyers and the governor. Cover and related story photos on page 2 by Jean Marie.

C  
i  
n  
o  
f  
s

I  
S  
T  
b  
o  
R  
o

A  
W  
s  
c  
r

T  
A  
T  
c  
s  
t  
h  
n

T  
T  
L  
a  
l  
p

L  
A  
W  
S  
t  
a

A  
s  
t  
19  
a  
y  
o  
p

A  
i  
s  
P  
l  
f  
u  
A  
t  
a  
n



Rep. John Schoon and Independence Mayor Marion Rossi.



Sarah Uhlend visits with President Meyers.



Governor and Mrs. Atiyeh

## Atiyeh learns of Western's impact

by Eric Swenson  
for the OCEAN

During an evening devoted to the discussion of economic development, Governor Victor Atiyeh, Western President Richard Meyers and several community figureheads shared their views with a crowd of over 125 at a \$10-a-plate banquet hosted on the Western Oregon State College campus.

Atiyeh strongly pushed his sales tax plan to the audience of Monmouth/Independence businessmen and educators. Meyers showed how Western's dramatic enrollment growth has boosted the local economy by 4.5 million dollars.

Atiyeh called the sales tax "the single most important thing we can do to guarantee stability" in Oregon's economy.

The governor also warned that a failure to pass a sales tax during this legislative session would give fuel to support for a "deadly" property tax limitation bill like Ballot Measure 2 in the next election.

"It (a property tax limitation law) would put a dangerous tourniquet on state services," he said.

Atiyeh said that a sales tax, which he did not support in the 1984 legislative session, is now "the sole remaining alternative" for tax reform. He proposed a sales tax plan that would replace old income and property taxes "dollar for dollar."

Atiyeh says one of his primary target groups to revive increased income would be education. "We need to meet the immediate needs of elementary and secondary education but also be flexible enough to meet the expanding needs of higher education."

President Meyers lauded "town-gown" relationships between Western and the local community as he quoted articles from two Oregon daily newspapers to show higher education's impact on economic development.

Using a formula from articles that appeared in the "Corvallis Gazette Times" and "Medford Mail Tribune," Meyers showed where Western's enrollment increase of 543 students has brought 4.5 million dollars into the Monmouth/Independence area.

The articles state that an average student brings \$8,250 a year to the local economy through expenditures. Transferring that, Meyers multiplied 543 students times \$8,250 to reach that total.

"That is not an inconsiderable figure in the economic status of any region," analyzed Meyers. "Four and one half million dollars may not solve everyone's

economic problems, but they are certainly welcome news to an area that is recovering from recent economic losses."

Meyers also demonstrated how Western's economic development to the region represented a total expenditure of 44.4 million dollars in 1983-84.

Peter Courtney, Meyers's assistant, kept the crowd in high spirits as the evening's master of ceremonies. Other speakers included Pete Glennie, president of the Monmouth/Independence Development Corporation; Mayor Marion Rossi of Independence and Mayor Wes Hedlund of Monmouth.

The event was co-sponsored by the Monmouth/Independence Chamber of Commerce and the Development Corporation.