

(DRAFT/May 1986)

Higher Education

Atiyeh pushed hard in the 1985 session, winning major improvements for higher education. Gains are reflected in the biennial appropriations for higher education: \$370 million for 1981-83, \$441 million for 1983-85, but \$556 million for 1985-87 (including \$41.6 million in Oregon Lottery revenues for one-time expenditures).

The centerpiece of the Governor's 1985 comprehensive plan was construction of new buildings for three academic-research "centers of excellence" to attract business and industry. These higher-education buildings will be the first financed by state dollars since 1980:

Oregon State University -- for electrical- and computer-engineering programs.

Portland State University -- for international trade and business programs.

University of Oregon -- for advanced science and research programs.

In addition, an engineering lab and classroom building will be constructed at Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls. For these four buildings, lottery revenues will provide \$33 million over a three-year period.

In addition, Atiyeh has won legislative approval for a number of other higher-education initiatives, including:

- o Increasing faculty salaries during the 1985-87 biennium with a \$40-million package (including a 9-10 percent package in July 1986), to retain and attract talented scholars and research scientists.

- Establishing the Oregon Center for Technology Education (OCATE), a first-in-the-nation program that will deliver high-tech instruction to companies in Washington County (and eventually elsewhere in Oregon). OCATE is advised by an Atiyeh-appointed Commission on Technical Education, composed of 11 Oregon CEOs.

- Maintaining buildings to catch up on leaky roofs, rotting window casings, unsafe wiring, etc., in the state's \$1-billion, 300-building higher-education system.

- Funding two endowed chairs at the Oregon Health Sciences University, a \$2.5-million item that is an Oregon first.

- Purchasing and replacing equipment.

- Establishing the Council for Advanced Science Engineering Education/Research for Industry (CASEERI) at PSU to identify and help meet educational, research and labor needs of Oregon industry.

Other examples of Atiyeh's personal involvement with higher education include leading a four-day, privately financed Governor's Education Mission in April 1985. Atiyeh and several dozen Oregon business and civic leaders visited the eight publicly financed colleges and universities, where they could see for themselves what Oregon higher education is doing.

Atiyeh meets weekly with State System Chancellor William E. "Bud" Davis and also receives monthly, face-to-face briefings about Oregon higher education.

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