



EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

October 22, 2007

Dr. Carol Schneider
President
Association of American Colleges and Universities
1818 R Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

Dear President Schneider:

On behalf of the Provosts' Council of the Oregon University System, I am pleased to accept your invitation to become a "LEAP State" of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. Participation in this initiative will enable us to learn from and contribute to advances in learning outcomes assessment and related educational practices across states where many institutions, and in some cases system offices, are working collaboratively to make progress.

Our aim, of course, is to promote fruitful deliberation and positive change in educational practices that increase student success in meeting high expectations, grounded in sound academic standards and institutional missions. We believe this work will bring important substance to campus initiatives and to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education's strategic planning and system portfolio definition. It will guide our collective effort to develop performance measures centered on student learning outcomes in the not to distant future. We hope to benefit from external support through AAC&U's several impressive grants to advance the work of LEAP states and participating campuses, and anticipate that such support can help us leverage opportunities to secure Oregon-based public and private funding for this work.

We are honored to have been invited and pledge to do our best for Oregon postsecondary education as well as success of national efforts to better define, educate, and assess the learning students need in this new century. We join also in commitment to improve means of accountability and communication of results to our major constituencies, balanced with responsibility for student privacy, academic integrity, and institutional autonomy.

Finally, we express our gratitude to you and Terry Rhodes for spending time with our colleagues from several campuses, as well as metro-based community colleges, on September 21. We welcome continuing dialogue and suggestions about how we can make the greatest progress for our institutions and system, and how Oregon can best contribute in the larger context of the LEAP initiative.

Sincerely,

John S. Miller, Chair, Provosts' Council
Provost, Eastern Oregon University

cc. Vice Chancellor Susan Weeks
Members, Provosts' Council
Special Assistant Elisabeth Zinser
Director Ruth Keele