1. College of Education Supplemental Funding

Western Oregon University is authorized to build a new College of Education facility during the 2013-2015 biennium. Current approved funding consists of $1.4 million Article XI-G bonds, $15.8 million state-paid Article XI-Q bonds, and $1.4 million in “other funds” – raised through philanthropy.

This new facility is essential to Oregon meeting its 40-40-20 goals, as enrollment in the education majors accounts for approximately 30% of Western’s total enrollment and enrollment in Special Education majors has grown 25% since 2008. The project will provide effective learning opportunities including dedicated facilities for STEM education and to the unique communication, rehabilitation, and educational needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing children and adults, including disabled combat veterans, commonly served in our Rehabilitation Counseling Education programs.

This building also allows Western to address $4.3 million in life/safety, seismic, and ADA issues in the existing College of Education building, and is the first capital project in Oregon receiving Governor’s recognition under Executive Order 12-16 to promote wood products as a green building material and encourages innovative uses of wood products.

“Western’s new education building is exactly the kind of project this executive order was intended to encourage” – John A. Kitzhaber, MD - Governor’s 12/13/13 press release.

Due to extreme uncertainties surrounding future governance of higher education in Oregon, potential donors have not committed to Western Oregon University and it is unlikely that the required $1.4 million in other funds will be raised to begin this project consistent with the timing of bond issuance in spring 2015.

WOU is requesting existing authorization for $1.4 million in XI-G bonds and associated $1.4 million matching “other funds” be converted to $2.8 million state-paid Article XI-Q bonds, which will allow for immediate commencement of the project.
2. Oregon Military Academic Building Acquisition – Phase 1

In 1991, WOU entered into a lease agreement with the Oregon Military Department for 10 acres on the northeast corner of campus on which the Oregon Military Department has constructed a 65,000 SF training facility known as the Oregon Military Academy (OMA). This facility contains significant classroom space on the first floor with sleeping and living quarters on the second floor.

The Oregon Military Department has indicated a desire to vacate the OMA facility and has provided WOU with an initial appraisal of $8.1 million. While Oregon Military Department is required to seek Fair Market Value for property disposals, a variety of factors may influence the ultimate sales price of a particular property. OMD and WOU are currently engaged in discussions to determine an appropriate value for this parcel which will allow both agencies to meet future goals.

It is WOU’s intent to acquire the building in phase 1, and refine existing instruction and living areas in phase 2 to provide a state of the art live learn facility.

This exchange represents a significant opportunity for the University, the Oregon Military Department, and the State of Oregon. This facility will provide Western with significant instructional space at a relatively low cost, further enabling WOU to fulfill its commitment to the state’s 40-40-20 goal; proceeds of the transfer provide funding for the Oregon Military Department to further its mission of maintaining an autonomous, viable state military force to protect Oregon’s citizenry and support the national military forces when necessary; and the State of Oregon directly benefits by repurposing the existing structure in support of state goals.

WOU is requesting $5.0 to $8.1 million state-paid Article XI-Q bonds for this project.