Three Specific Actions Recommended to the Academic Strategies Committee Regarding the Rural Participation and Success Priority Area

Actions to Strengthen College-Going Culture in Rural Areas

- Increase investment in pre-college programs: add additional ASPIRE & GEAR-UP sites with priority in rural areas, increase pre-college advising skills for middle and high school teachers/counselors by funding summer institutes at colleges and universities.

For Appendices: This action will require funding. The ASPIRE Director has identified 95 sites where schools have already indicated the necessary interest and support for an ASPIRE Program.
  - $341,380 in 2011-12 would add 45 ASPIRE sites to the current 115 sites statewide.
  - $697,472 in 2012-13 would add another 50 sites to that total.
  - $475,000 for the biennium to GEAR-UP would increase the number of clusters by 10.

Actions to Improve Program Completion and Credential Attainment

- Develop new regional “open campus” processes and agreements applying a “hub and spoke” model with financial support for rural access points (address broadband capacity, facilities use, pilot gateway courses, and collaborative agreements). “Hub and spoke” is a metaphor representing the idea of having a main campus as the “hub,” with satellite/ local entry points or centers/course delivery sites as the “spokes.”

For Appendices: Without funding, institutions could attempt to reallocate existing resources and seek to forge inter-institutional agreements. An investment in rural broadband infrastructure and support for pilot projects would permit advising and support staff for remote sites. Cost estimates forthcoming.

- Create a Systemwide interdisciplinary baccalaureate degree awarded through OUS tentatively called “organizational leadership” to facilitate degree completion for rural Oregonians.

For Appendices: Funding would support release time for faculty and initial development and coordination efforts.

We endorse the movement to implement the applied Bachelor of Science degree as a collaboration between Oregon’s community colleges and universities.