ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN OREGON

Presented to the Academic Strategies Committee

October 27, 2011
Board Goals: Knowledge and Innovation

The Board, on behalf of OUS, seeks to accomplish four broad goals to produce the highest level of educational outcomes for Oregonians:

1. Create in Oregon an educated citizenry to support responsible roles in a democratic society and provide a globally competitive workforce to drive the state’s economy, while ensuring access for all qualified Oregonians to a quality postsecondary education.

2. Ensure high-quality student learning leading to subsequent student success.

3. Create original knowledge and advance innovation.

4. Contribute positively to the economic, civic, and cultural life of communities in all regions of Oregon.
Value Proposition

- **Value of research** = **Benefits** − **Costs**
  - Costs include risks

- **Examples of the value proposition: successes**
  - I-6 grant
  - OHSU’s infectious Disease work
  - Improvements in Health based Technology [HD+ (Translation of research into meaningful private investment & jobs)]
  - Energy security (NNMREC safe clean domestic energy supplies)
  - Food security (Clearfield Wheat)
  - Center for Sustainable Materials
  - Initiative for Bicycle and Pedestrian Innovation
## Major Competitive Opportunities

- UVDF
- Collaboration with industry — Green chemistry
  - SBIR
  - STTP
- STC/ERC/IUCRC/PFI — (if properly coordinated)
- Federal Agency Initiatives
Current and Emerging Challenges

- Declining state investment in research infrastructure and facilities
- Need for increased industry support for research
- Intense competition for top research talent
- Declining availability of federal funds
- Failure of many to understand the important role of research in faculty work
- No structure for and lack of strategic campaigns with targeted industries consistent with Oregon business plan
- Poor incentive and reward structure, including P&T
- The growing rejection by national politicians of the importance of scientific information and evidence-based decision-making is a threat to the basic idea of innovation-based economic development
What Strategies and Operating Principles can be Adopted?

- Have the VPs of Research from OHSU, OUS, PSU, and UO work closely with ASC
  - PRINCIPLE: There is an established structure for engaging the university research leadership

- Determine a process by which research topics/interests are heard and discussed at the Board level
  - PRINCIPLE: There is a mechanism for regular discussion of research issues at the Board

- Build a statewide venture fund
  - PRINCIPLE: There are dedicated resources for transitioning innovation into applications and economic development

- Understand where targeted investments are needed to build research infrastructure and where we should be
  - PRINCIPLE: There must be priorities for research investment, predicated upon clear criteria

- Identify Board and state policies that need to be revised/created that support and advance research
  - PRINCIPLE: Guidance and foundational doctrine for research should be updated regularly

- Advocate through positive public messaging around research
  - PRINCIPLE: Dedicated investment in marketing and publicity for research is required

- Benefit from having advocacy groups carry ideas forward; Help build private partners and resources
  - PRINCIPLE: Establish formal partnerships and active relationships with priority stakeholders