



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

November 14, 2006

Shelley Hanson, Director
Spirit Mountain Community Fund Committee
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Dear Committee members,

It is my pleasure, as Steward of the University of Oregon Many Nations Longhouse, to write to you on behalf of Lane Community College as they work towards fully funding of the construction of a Longhouse on the Lane Community College campus grounds. It is with a grateful heart that I acknowledge the support that the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde has given to Lane Community College to date. I know firsthand that there is a positive role that an LCC Longhouse will play in the higher education of our tribal students. The Longhouse offers a venue where students can interact with Native Americans in the local community. It also makes it possible to maintain tribal values in a more natural way than if students were left to their own devices while away from home.

Another benefit Lane Community College offers to the tribe, students and their families is saving money by providing a tiered approach to higher education which allows Lane to provide a more economical way to educate its students. This post-secondary education option is to have students attend Lane for the first two years, making the cost less expensive than sending a student to attend an Oregon university for four years. In addition, students who receive a transfer degree from Lane can compete for scholarships at four-year universities, further reducing educational costs.

The commitment that President Mary Spilde and Associate Vice President, Donna Koechig have made to the Longhouse is commendable. Their commitment to the LCC Native American Student Program under Coordinator James Florendo has exhibited forward thinking classes such as a Native American Storytelling Seminar and an upcoming Seminar on Native American Inter-tribal dance. I would like to contrast these two examples with standard offerings that LCC has available from a paragraph written by Associate Vice President, Donna Koechig, "A four-year college is not for everyone. Lane Community College offers students a range of possibilities. (Continued)

MANY NATIONS LONGHOUSE

1630 Columbia

5296 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-5296 (541) 346-6246 www.uoregon.edu

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For instance, trades/professional technical and transfer degrees do help address a broad range of tribal needs such as accounting, aviation, fabrication/welding, culinary/hospitality and nursing. Completing [a program] at Lane can lead to achieving:

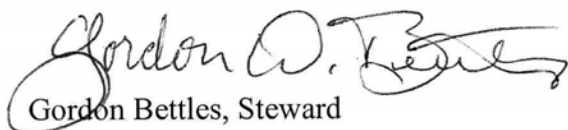
- Certificates: Either one and/or two-year certificate programs
 - Degrees: Associate of Applied Science, Associate of General Studies, Associate of Science, and Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer Degree (AAOT)*
- *LCC has dual enrollment partnership agreements with both UO and OSU"

I personally was very impressed when the entire LCC Student Body voted to add an estimated \$250K to 300K over a three year period in student fees towards the construction costs which proves to me that they also recognize the importance of a Longhouse. It speaks volumes about the atmosphere our students would experience while attending LCC.

The University of Oregon Administration has given me permission to work with Lane Community College on their Longhouse Project. I have been assisting them with Longhouse protocols and infrastructure support. I received permission to transfer two of the timbers left over from the building of the UO Many Nations Longhouse to the LCC Longhouse resources supplies. The Native American Student Union at the UO and the LCC Native American Student Association have worked together for many years supporting each other's activities and issues. I stated to the UO Administration when questioned why I was willing to help LCC with their project that "Longhouses do not compete with each other. We are there to give support to each other as needed." It is my fervent hope that this badly needed Longhouse will be completed in a timely basis as it will only benefit those students that have found need for tribal support.

In my last conversation with Chairman Chris Mercier, he advised that Lane Community College should apply for supplemental funds from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund Committee. I support Lane Community College as they make this request. It can only benefit our Native American students when they open new Longhouse doors for the first time on the campus. Please contact me at your earliest convenience if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Gordon Bettles, Steward