Allen,

I recently attended a meeting for the new Technology and Education Center as a member of the EDCO Higher Education Committee. I should say before any comments that I sincerely appreciate the State support and funding assistance for this important center that will be designed to bring and educate more business in Central Oregon.

What I am about to point out is my real concern about how the State is holding us hostage in how we approach our programs. As a member of the HEAT report that was designed to give OSU a better foothold in Central Oregon, I have been a strong supporter for improving the status of OSU in our community. I am a graduate of OSU and I am grateful for the education I received. However, I am really concerned about OUS telling us that we can not have another state college in our community.

We are very limited in what we can offer now. A number of our manufacturing companies hire from OIT and have a good working relationship with them. OIT also offers a great 2+2 program that fits very well with the programs being planned for the new Tech Center. This is NOT a duplication of the type of engineering programs being planned for OSU. This slammed door is not going over with our industry partners.

Our EDCO Higher Education Committe is asking OIT to bring in their on line programs because you can't stop that effort. If you really want to get us to invest in your efforts, maybe you should invest in ours first.

Ron Munkres
CoChair, EDCO Higher Ed Committee
Member of HEAT

From: ALLEN Seth * GOV <seth.allen@state.or.us
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2012 2:28 PM
Subject: Oregon Education Investment Board meeting notice 3/13/12