

# PROJECT REPORT STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

— OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY —

March 2011

It's our pleasure to share with you the latest news about the Student Success Center. Excitement about the new building is steadily growing as we're seeing early successes from the programs the building will house.



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The building design is finished. The process of getting permits and doing preliminary work remains on schedule, with construction expected to begin on May 9. Our contractor, H.S. Wright, will be established on site at the end of April or beginning of May.

**Save the Date** – The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Student Success Center will be held Tuesday, May 31, 1:30 p.m. at the construction site just north of the CH2M HILL Alumni Center.

## PROGRAM UPDATE

We continue to track great progress with our BEST and September Scholars bridge programs, which will be housed in the Student Success Center. Both of these rigorous academic programs give students a jump start to acquiring skills and habits they'll need to be successful college students. They and the other programs offered by the Student Success Center are a central part of our efforts to increase student retention and graduation rates, which is one of the highest goals of our strategic plan. We're very pleased to report that these efforts are starting to pay off. In fact, OSU's freshman retention rate has reached its highest percentage in university history.



Created five years ago for student-athletes, the **BEST** (Bridge Encouraging Successful Transition) **Summer Bridge Program** has experienced robust growth and popularity with coaches, with more and more teams referring their student-athletes for participation. While 29 students were involved the first summer, three sessions were held this past summer for 66 total students representing 14 different Division I sports.

The program's impact is impressive. Prior to BEST, football had a 54% graduation rate. Since BEST began in 2006, **the football graduation and retention rate has risen to 80%**.

This summer a service learning component was added to the BEST curriculum, helping to promote civic duty and a sense of community.



This was the second year for **September Scholars**, a program similar to BEST that provides resources and support to help incoming students make the transition to college. Participants include first generation students, students from small high schools, and students from rurally isolated areas. While 20 students took part in the first year, 58 students participated in 2010.

For the first two terms at OSU in 2009-10, **September Scholars earned higher grades** than similar students who were not in the program. Also, **the retention rate of these September Scholars is 20% higher** than that of students with similar entering academic profiles who did not participate in the program.

We were delighted to receive a grant from the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation to help OSU expand its supplemental instruction program for first-year students.

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As you've likely heard, donors pushed The Campaign for OSU past its initial \$625 million goal with nearly a year to spare, and we announced that the campaign goal was being increased to \$850 million to help propel the university to a new level of distinction and global leadership. The final phase of the campaign will focus on investments that support three core areas of distinction described in our strategic plan: advancing the science of sustainable earth ecosystems; improving human health and wellness; and promoting economic growth and social progress.

Thanks again for your support of the Student Success Center.

## CONTACT US

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