



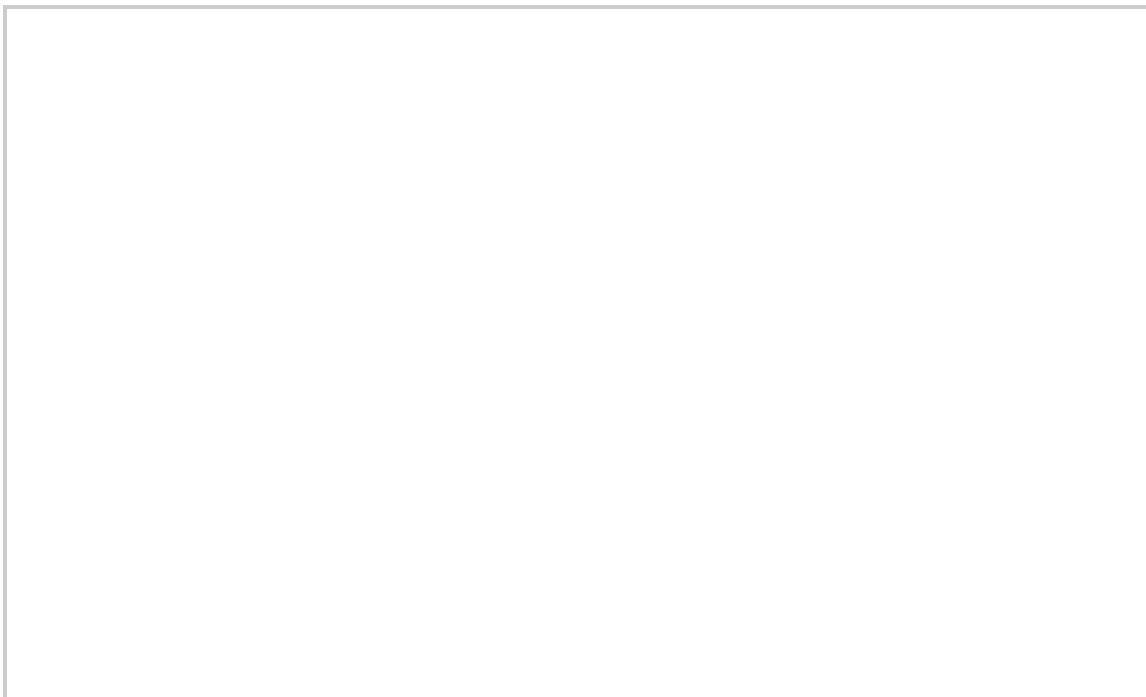
UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON

College of
Education

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As the leaves change colors and we welcome our students to a new academic year, we're reminded of the transformative power of education—just as each season brings growth, so too do the opportunities you make possible at the College of Education! Your support continues to create brighter futures for our students, and we're excited to share the inspiring stories and progress you've helped foster this year.





An Olympian goes for the...master's degree!

Jaida Ross, BA '23 Psychology, is no stranger to hard work and perseverance—qualities that propelled her to the world stage as a finalist in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, where she placed 4th overall in shot put.

Jaida's [remarkable journey](#) continues this year as she pursues a master's degree in [Prevention Science](#) at the College of Education. To help propel her into a profession focused on helping people through social advocacy, Jaida received funding from the **Tasia Smith Excellence Scholarship, established by Jim Sandstrom and the late Andi Sandstrom**. Andi, a 1964 graduate of the college's Elementary Education program, was dedicated to supporting students from underrepresented populations as well as first-generation college students.

"If there is something we can do to help bridge that gap by providing support to those less economically fortunate in having access to the College of Education, then that's a win-win for society. It's sad to lose a talent pool of students just because they lack the funds to pursue their future dreams." The Tasia Smith Excellence Scholarship, a scholarship dedicated to achieving those goals, received over \$12,000 from twenty donors in honor of Andi Sandstrom during last May's [Ducks Give](#) annual day of giving.



A New Era: The College of Education Embraces Big Ten Academic Opportunities

This year marks an important milestone as the University of Oregon joins the Big Ten Conference. While this represents an incredible athletic achievement and opportunity, the College of Education is happy to share the academic opportunities that this conference brings.

The move integrates the university into the Big Ten Academic Alliance, a consortium renowned for **fostering collaboration among top-tier research institutions**. This alliance provides unparalleled **opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to engage in groundbreaking research, share resources, and participate in innovative academic programs**. Our very own Dean, Laura Lee McIntyre has joined the Big Ten's Academic Alliance as one of two UO deans to represent the Dean's Leadership Council!

The Big Ten's emphasis on academic excellence and research synergies aligns perfectly with the University of Oregon's strategic goals. This new era promises **enhanced academic prestige, increased funding opportunities, and a broader platform for showcasing the university's strengths**. The College of Education stands to benefit from these collaborations, leveraging new partnerships to advance its mission of societal impact and student success.

[Read the Oregon Quarterly Article](#)



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Sapsik^walá graduate, Geena Talley (Karuk) instructing elementary students

On our 2024 Ducks Give Day of Giving, supporters raised over \$12,000 to help Indigenous students achieve their dreams of becoming educators. Thanks to this generosity, these future teachers will bring their unique perspectives and cultural wisdom to transform classrooms and communities.

[Sapsik^walá Teacher Education Program](#) Co-directors [Michelle Jacob](#) and [Leilani Sabzalian's](#) article in the Fall issue of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian magazine outlines the dire need for more Indigenous resources and the barriers potential teachers face in reaching their goals.

[Read the Smithsonian Article](#)

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