



## FY2024-25 IMPACT REPORT

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**EMBRACING CHANGE, CHAMPIONING  
EQUITY, AND ADVANCING THE  
COLLEGE'S MISSION TO IMPROVE LIVES  
THROUGH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.**

### LETTER FROM THE INTERIM DEAN



It is an honor to serve as Interim Dean of the University of Oregon's College of Education (COE). Since joining the UO faculty in 2017, I've had the privilege of working alongside many of you in roles that span research, leadership, and mentorship. My journey, from faculty member to research scientist at the Prevention

Science Institute, to executive director of the HEDCO Institute for Evidence-Based Educational Practice, has been **grounded in a commitment to evidence-based decision-making that improves outcomes for children, youth, and families.**

I stepped into this role during a time of profound challenge and transformation. As many of you know, the university is facing a significant structural budget deficit. This has led to painful **reductions across campus, including within our own college.** We have had to make difficult decisions, including the elimination of valued positions and a temporary pause on academic faculty hiring. These choices were not made lightly, and I remain deeply committed to transparency and consultation as we navigate this rocky terrain.

Despite these challenges, **our mission remains steadfast: to promote meaningful social change through transformational scholarship, instruction, and practice.**

**2000+**

STUDENTS AND  
FACULTY

**19**

ACADEMIC  
PROGRAMS

**14**

RESEARCH AND  
OUTREACH UNITS

**No. 3**

SPECIAL EDUCATION  
GRADUATE PROGRAM

**No. 5**

GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF EDUCATION  
AMONG PUBLIC  
INSTITUTIONS

**No. 15**

GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF EDUCATION IN  
THE NATION





For instance, this year we launched the Cohesive Learning Institutes, a series for graduate students at the College **focused on culturally responsive teaching, social emotional learning, and universal design**. Our efforts exemplify our dedication to preparing educators who will promote inclusive, supportive, and transformative learning environments for generations to come. We also celebrated the **establishment of a national center for children's mental health**, supported by a \$11 million federal grant that will bring together schools, community partners, and dozens of faculty and students from the university's Prevention Science Institute, the College of Education, and Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health. This initiative leverages the **College of Education's national reputation as a leader in prevention science and puts us at the forefront of efforts to improve student well-being**.

**As we look ahead, my priorities include:**

- Sustaining excellence in research and teaching despite fiscal constraints.
- Supporting our existing faculty and staff through mentorship, collaboration, and shared governance.
- Expanding equity-focused initiatives that center the needs of marginalized communities.
- Engaging our alumni and donors in shaping the future of the college.

I am grateful to former Dean Laura Lee McIntyre for her visionary leadership and to each of you for your continued dedication. While the path forward may be uncertain, I am **confident in our collective strength and shared purpose**. Together, we will continue to advance knowledge, foster innovation, and serve as a force for social good.

I invite you to explore the pages that follow to learn more about the inspiring work happening across our college thanks to donor support and philanthropy. Your engagement and support are vital as we move forward together with purpose and resilience.

With appreciation,

**Emily Tanner-Smith, PhD**  
Interim Dean & Thomson Professor  
University of Oregon College of Education





# STUDENT SUCCESS

## OREGON150 College of Education

Through the collective generosity of donors, students were able to choose to study at the UO, persevere through challenges, and launch their futures.

### RECRUIT



**\$1.1 MILLION**

IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS

### RETAIN



**\$31,000**

EMERGENCY BRIDGE FUNDS ASSISTED ELEVEN STUDENTS

### READY



**\$23,700**

HELPED FORTY-ONE STUDENTS COVER GRADUATION COSTS

**\$23,500**

SUPPORTED TWENTY-SEVEN STUDENTS TO ATTEND PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES



**SABRINA A.**

Med '25 UO Teach



*Receiving a scholarship will make it possible for me to pursue my dream of helping children feel seen, fostering a love of learning, and empowering them to believe in themselves.*



**NYENGO K.**

MS '25 Education Policy & Leadership



*The Emergency Bridge Award was a game-changer. It allowed me to register for the term when I otherwise might not have been able to. Without it, my academic progress could have been delayed.*



**SOL F.**

MS '25 Comm. Disorders & Sciences



*Thanks to scholarships, I have been able to overcome financial barriers that have historically prevented students from low-income backgrounds, like me, from achieving their academic goals.*



# RESEARCH FOR A BETTER FUTURE

The UO College of Education's research extends across classrooms, clinics, and communities—driving **evidence-based solutions that help individuals learn and thrive**. Faculty innovations like Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) have become national models for improving literacy, behavior, and academic success. Through the HEDCO Institute, faculty are also leading efforts to **translate research into real-world impact through rapid evidence reviews and policy guidance**.

**Philanthropic support fuels this reach** - helping faculty test new ideas, secure additional competitive grants, and translate research into tools used by educators and practitioners nationwide.

***“Even well-intentioned parents can say things that increase their child’s risk for depression and disordered eating. This project helps families have healthier conversations and that starts with giving parents the tools they need.”***



**-Nichole Kelly, PhD**  
Evergreen Associate Professor in  
Counseling Psychology &  
Human Services

**97%**

OREGON CHILDREN  
REACHED

**29K+**

SCHOOLS USE COE  
DEVELOPED METHODS  
AND TOOLS

**43**

COE COMMERCIAL  
EDUCATION PRODUCTS  
ON THE MARKET

## SUPPORTING HEALTHIER CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With **support from the Andrea Nicholson Wiggins Fund for Faculty Outreach**, Nichole Kelly, PhD, is equipping parents and caregivers with tools to **navigate sensitive conversations about health and appearance** that can shape a teen's self-image and well-being.

The fund enabled Kelly to **hire graduate students and pilot a remote workshop series** that has already reached nearly 100 families across Oregon. These sessions help parents **promote healthy behaviors without reinforcing weight bias** and offer strategies for **countering harmful messages from social media** and extended family. The project is on track to engage 120 families, with data collection underway to evaluate its impact.

Donor-funded seed grants like this one provide the foundation for faculty to **test innovative ideas, generate early data, and pursue larger-scale funding**. They also create meaningful training opportunities for graduate students and contribute to stronger, more connected communities.



# FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Donor support is key to attracting and retaining top scholars whose expertise fuels innovation in research and education.

Philanthropic funding provides flexible resources such as research start-up support for new faculty, endowed professorships, and professional development awards that are critical to recruiting and sustaining world-class educators.

By investing in faculty, donors strengthen the foundation of the College's and our students' success, fueling the discoveries, mentorship, and training that shape the next generation of educators, clinicians, and researchers.



***“For the past two decades, there's been an increasing rate in suicide among youth. And in the past year, over 20% reported considering attempting suicide. It's a critical public health issue that we need to address.”***

**John Seeley, PhD**

Associate Dean for Research  
Castle-McIntosh-Knight Professor

## SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

John Seeley, PhD, was recently named the Castle-McIntosh-Knight Professor, a donor-funded appointment that helps the College of Education retain **nationally recognized leaders in youth mental health research**. As associate dean for research and a tenured professor of special education, Seeley brings deep expertise in **emotional and behavioral disorders, school-based behavioral health, suicide prevention, and substance misuse**—areas critical to the College's mission.

With more than 300 publications and recognition as one of the University of Oregon's most-cited scholars, Seeley's work is **shaping how schools and communities nationwide support youth mental health**. His recent University of Oregon Outstanding Research Award further highlights his **groundbreaking contributions to suicide prevention and mental health intervention**.

In addition to his research, Seeley is deeply committed to **mentoring the next generation of scholars**, ensuring that this vital work continues to grow and evolve.

**Donor support empowers faculty like Seeley to pursue bold ideas, mentor future leaders, and drive lasting change in education and wellness.**

12

NAMED FACULTY  
ENDOWMENTS

17

DONOR-FUNDED  
FACULTY AWARDS  
GRANTED THIS YEAR

# THE HEDCO CLINIC: CHANGING LIVES ONE SESSION AT A TIME

Donor support made the HEDCO Clinic a reality fifteen years ago, allowing the College to train more clinicians, broaden community impact, and lay the foundation for a legacy of care.

Philanthropy continues to drive innovation and allow for expansion. This year, thanks to donor support, the HEDCO Clinic launched a new behavioral assessment and care center and covered the costs for pediatric clients seeking speech-language assessment and intervention.

1,775

UNIQUE CLIENTS

9,935

APPOINTMENTS

11,589

SESSION HOURS

140

STUDENT CLINICIANS TRAINED

7

CENTERS PROVIDING SERVICES

## A NEW CENTER FOR AUTISM AND BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS EXPANDS ACCESS TO CARE

Funded in part by the Dave and Nancy Petrone HEDCO Clinic Innovation Fund, the College of Education launched the Center for Autism and Behavioral Supports (CABS) as an innovative new resource for families housed within the HEDCO Clinic. **CABS serves autistic and neurodivergent children and teens** offering comprehensive behavioral assessments and personalized, family-centered care.

Families receiving services at CABS set personalized goals that highlight each child's strengths and equip both children and families with the tools and support they need to succeed. As Center Director Lindsay Feltis, PhD, notes, **"CABS is committed to evidence-based practices that center the voices of children and families while expanding access to compassionate, high-quality care."** Working under supervision, master's-level Applied Behavioral Health students gain hands-on clinical experience to prepare them for successful graduation and future careers in the field.

**Donor investments like the Petrone HEDCO Clinic Innovation Fund make it possible to launch bold new initiatives that support children, empower families, and train the next generation of compassionate professionals.**





# WHY I GIVE: RIPPLES OF CHANGE

## THROUGH PHILANTHROPY, INSPIRATION BECOMES ACTION

When **Alan Eliason, PhD**, entered retirement, he was faced with an unexpected question: What if I have more money than I need? Downsizing his home, simplifying his lifestyle, and eliminating debt created not only financial surplus but also **new possibilities**.

Rather than simply transferring wealth to his children, Alan reflected on the life and legacy of his late wife, Jane Eliason, a speech and language specialist dedicated to supporting children with special needs. **Her passion inspired him** to create something lasting in her honor. Working with the University of Oregon, **he established an endowment to support graduate students during their practicum experiences**, times when tuition remains high, but income is limited. The fund helps cover essential expenses such as licensure fees and professional attire, **easing the burden during a critical stage of professional preparation**.

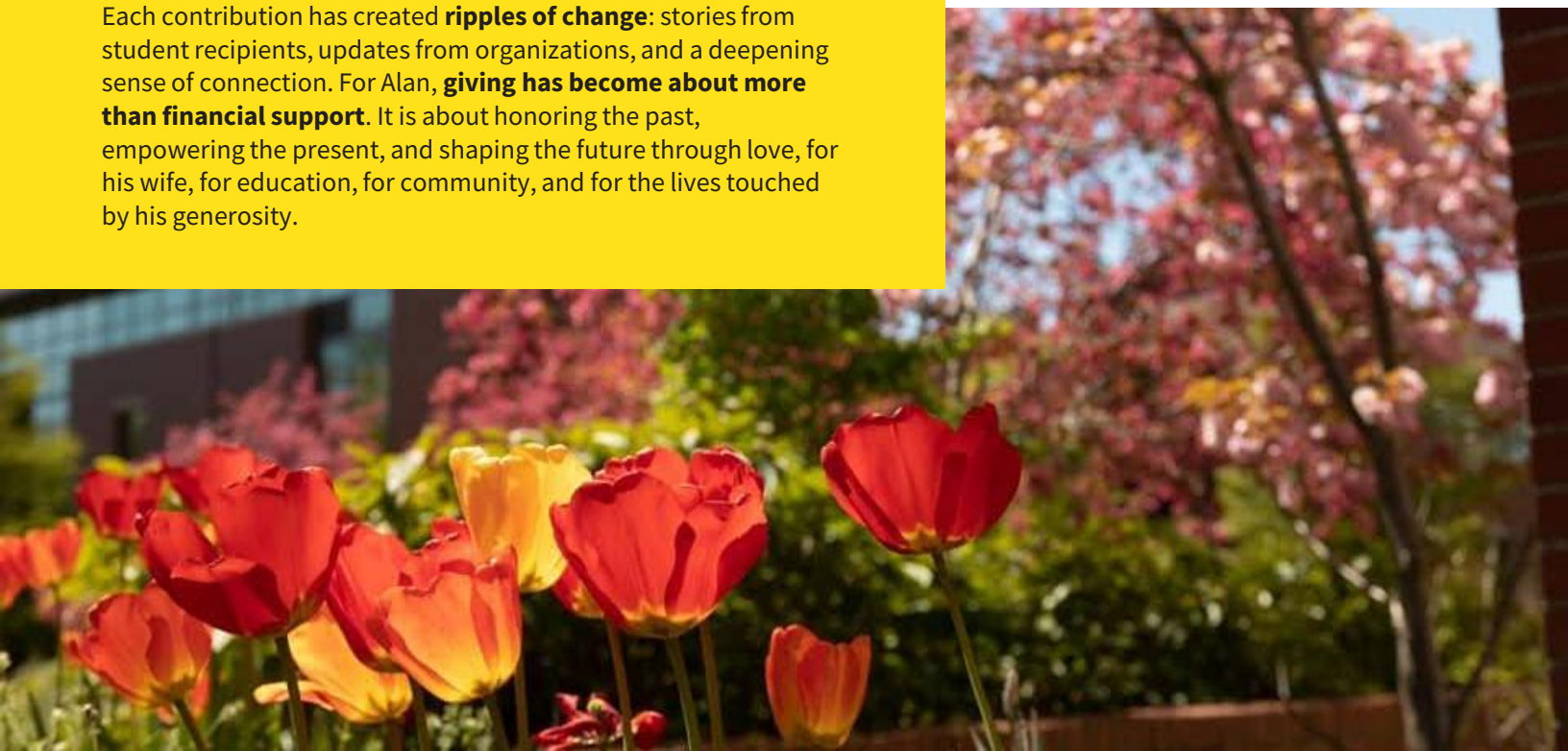
His philanthropy soon expanded through **charitable gift annuities**, which allow him to support causes close to his heart, including environmental programs, animal welfare, and the arts, while also **receiving income for life and tax benefits**. Over time, this approach became self-sustaining, with reinvested income fueling new gifts and **amplifying his impact**.

Each contribution has created **ripples of change**: stories from student recipients, updates from organizations, and a deepening sense of connection. For Alan, **giving has become about more than financial support**. It is about honoring the past, empowering the present, and shaping the future through love, for his wife, for education, for community, and for the lives touched by his generosity.



**ALAN ELIASON, PHD**  
College of Education Legacy Donor

“  
*I realized I could do something that would last beyond my lifetime and honor my wife's legacy in a way that felt deeply personal.*  
”





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# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

## HEDCO EDUCATION BUILDING



The University of Oregon is located within the traditional homelands of the Southern Kalapuya. Following the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855, Kalapuya people were forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. Today, descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon.

The University of Oregon is an equal-opportunity institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This publication will be made available in accessible formats upon request. Accommodations for people with disabilities will be provided if requested in advance.