



February 21, 2017

Dear Mayor Milligan and Honorable Councilors:

I am writing to you to support the question of the City of Monmouth's consideration of sanctuary status. As you know, the city and Western Oregon University have a long tradition of supporting the broader community through our activities and values. In 2017, we find ourselves engaged in a national discussion about the meaning and value of safe, inclusive communities.

In November 2016, I wrote the campus community about this topic and stated:

Western Oregon University is a sanctuary for all of our students and we will remain a place where every student enjoys the sense of belonging to a committed community of students, faculty and staff. This means:

- Western campus security officers do not regulate or enforce immigration laws
- Western will not participate in immigration enforcement activities unless required to do so by law
- Western is committed to a safe, inclusive community and respects the rights of each community member to civil discourse
- Western will not tolerate threats or acts of discrimination and will strive to sustain a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of the university community

More recently, Western's Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a new Strategic Plan, *Forward Together: 2017-2023*. The plan includes a number of statements that speak to the importance of community, diversity and respect:

- Community  
Trustworthy, caring, safe environment for the cultivation of peace, civility and social justice; connections extending beyond the classroom, across campus and into our local and global communities.
- Diversity and Respect  
Equity and inclusion; a fundamental basis in human diversity; appreciation for the complexity of the world; strength drawn from our variety of backgrounds, abilities, cultural experiences, identities, knowledge domains and means of expression.

Toward these values, I want to remind you that Western's students come to Monmouth and provide an element of richness and diversity that help to make Monmouth and the surrounding community vibrant and forward-looking. The vast majority of our students live off-campus and call Monmouth home for most of the calendar year. I, too, call Monmouth home and I appreciate the efforts of the city

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**Office of the President**

to be welcoming to our students each year. From opening year banners, to celebrating key campus events, the city and campus strive to make the community better.

In these actions, the city is true to its motto: "Pride, progress and friendly hometown values." Our campus security and the Monmouth Police work together to ensure the safety of all citizens in support of the mission of the Monmouth Police Department:

The Mission of the Monmouth Police Department is to create a safe community and a feeling of security by providing the highest quality of professional law enforcement services to every citizen.

To be true to these values, I am asking the City Council to take up the matter of sanctuary status and ask staff to explore ways that the City can reaffirm its values in support of all our citizens.

In closing, I ask you to consider, what are the key characteristics that make Monmouth special? I am certain you will agree that one of the things that drives our place in this world, is the commitment we have to one another as citizens dedicated to "pride, progress and friendly hometown values" for all.

Sincerely,



Rex Fuller, President

c: Scott McClure, Monmouth City Manager  
Phyllis Bolman, Monmouth City Recorder