



February 24, 2017

Dear Campus Community,

On Wednesday, President Trump and his administration withdrew guidelines issued last year that were designed to protect transgender students and ensure that every person has access to the restroom facilities of their choice at public schools and in colleges across the nation. The rescinded protections were based on guidelines stating that Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on gender identity in addition to biological gender.

Fortunately, this action does not affect public schools and universities in Oregon or our campus. Oregon law already prohibits discrimination in education based on sexual orientation, which statutorily includes gender identity. Western Oregon University has had all-inclusive restrooms available for many years and last year adjusted signage throughout campus to create even more.

WOU remains steadfast in our support of diversity, inclusion and community. These values are ingrained in our campus culture and are vital to learning and academic pursuits. Indeed, our newly adopted strategic plan is clear: “(WOU’s) practices are guided by...equity and inclusion; a fundamental basis in human diversity; appreciation for the complexity of the world; and strength drawn from our variety of backgrounds, abilities, cultural experiences, identities, knowledge domains and means of expression.”

I want to assure all members of our campus community that WOU is a safe, welcoming place for everyone. We remain confident in the knowledge that we are providing an inclusive, supportive and conducive learning environment for students, faculty and staff alike and that we will always continue to do so.

Sincerely,

Rex Fuller, Ph.D.

President, Western Oregon University