

**Oregon** **TECH**

**Oregon Institute of Technology**

***Oregon Tech's Course for  
Future Success in a Changing  
Higher Education Landscape***

***Convocation***

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**PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST  
AND WELCOME**

**September 19, 2023**



## President's Welcome

Nagi G. Naganathan, Ph.D., ASME Fellow



Dear Colleagues,

Whether you are here today as returning faculty or staff, or are new to the Oregon Tech community, welcome to Convocation and the new academic year. This annual event is a time to honor your achievements and also serves as an opportunity for us to convene and share the 2023-24 institutional goals. As we embark on this new year, let us embrace the possibilities that lie ahead.

Now is a special time to be at Oregon Tech. We have many new and exciting endeavors to look forward to, and I am grateful to have a strong university community to share those advancements and accomplishments with.

Since we met this time last year, Oregon Tech has celebrated new learning spaces for students, new programs, and new partnerships. This academic year, we look forward to updating geothermal facilities and breaking ground on a new residence hall for students at the Klamath Falls campus, and launching new academic and student-focused initiatives across the university.

None of Oregon Tech's successes, past or future, can be achieved without the hard work and determination of our faculty, staff, alums, and supporters. Each of you have an important role to fulfill in ensuring our students' success and the university's successful future.

Let this year be a time for new beginnings and fresh perspectives as we embrace the opportunities before us. I am confident that with your continued commitment we will continue to achieve great things. Together, we are **Oregon's Polytechnic University**.

Sincerely,

**Nagi G. Naganathan, Ph.D., ASME Fellow**

President

## Executive Staff

I extend gratitude to Oregon Tech's executive staff for the work they do. The purpose of the executive staff is to actively support the President in navigating the strategic directions of the university. Each of them oversees and brings their expertise to an essential component of the university, dedicating a huge amount of time, and energy every day. I certainly could not do my job without their advice, support, and dedication.

*Names in alphabetical order:*

- Dr. Abdy Afjeh** Associate Vice Provost for Research and Academic Affairs, Interim Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology and Management, Acting Provost
- Connie Atchley** Associate Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer
- Dr. Ruth Black** Dean of Online Education and Global Engagement
- Dr. Mandi Clark** Associate Vice President & Dean of Students, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs
- Dr. Ken Fincher** Vice President for University Advancement, Interim Board Secretary
- Dave Groff** General Counsel
- Sandi Hanan** Associate Vice President for Human Resources
- John Harman** Vice President for Finance and Administration
- Kimberly Koops** Associate Vice President for Government Relations
- Dr. Beverly McCreary** Associate Vice Provost of Faculty Relations
- Dr. Joanna Mott** Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Adria Paschal** Senior Executive Assistant to the President
- Dr. Dan Peterson** Dean of the College of Health, Arts and Sciences
- Douglas Tripp** Executive Director of Resilience, Emergency Management and Safety
- John Van Dyke** Director of Athletics Department
- Dr. Jennifer Wilson** Director of Diversity, Inclusion and Cultural Engagement

## Provost's Welcome

Joanna Mott, Ph.D.



Dear Faculty and Staff,

Welcome to the 2023-24 academic year. I hope you had a restorative summer break and are eager for the new academic year ahead.

As you may know, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities recently reaffirmed Oregon Tech's institutional accreditation. This was made possible thanks to the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff, who helped organize and coordinate site visits to both of our campuses and gathered material in support of Oregon Tech's self-evaluation report. Your efforts made a significant impact and we are incredibly grateful.

This year, Academic Affairs will begin implementing a review of all academic programs to help identify areas of success and areas that need improvement to ensure that we are providing the best possible education to our students. More information about this and academic updates will be shared during Convocation breakout sessions.

As we enter a new year, thank you for your dedication to Oregon Tech's mission, I am looking forward to an outstanding academic year ahead.

Sincerely,

**Joanna Mott, Ph.D.**

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs  
and Strategic Enrollment Management

## President's Breakfast and Welcome

College Union Crater Lake Complex, Second Floor  
for Faculty and Staff

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- 8:00 am President's Welcome Breakfast**
  - 8:30 am Welcome**  
Welcome remarks by President Naganathan  
Faculty Promotions  
New Faculty and Staff Introductions  
Faculty and Staff Awards
  - 10:00 am President's Address**
  - 10:45 am Break**
  - 11:00 am Keynote – AI: Introduction and Relevance to Oregon Tech**
  - 12:00 pm Break**
  - 12:30 pm Lunch Buffet – Market Place Café**
  - 1:00 pm Center for Wellbeing Overview**
  - 1:30 pm Break**
  - 1:45 pm Disability Services Training/ADA Training**
  - 2:45 pm Break**
  - 3:00 pm Mandatory Reporter Training**
  - 3:30 pm Break**
  - 3:45 pm State of Diversity**
  - 4:15 pm Institutional Assessment: Update on Institutional Accreditation and Plan for Academic Year's Assessment**
  - 5:00 pm Foundation Reconnect Social – CEET Lobby**

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff

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Oregon Tech's Course for Future Success in a Changing Higher Education Environment



### Annette Abernathy

Administrative Program Assistant  
5/1/2023

Admissions

After growing up in the Bay Area and spending 30 years as a registered dental assistant, Annette Abernathy came to work at Oregon Tech. Abernathy enjoys helping students with the first part of their journey into higher education.

Abernathy and her fiancé have a menagerie of animals, including cats, dogs, turtles, and fish. They both work for Oregon Tech and are very happy in Klamath Falls.



### Corey Allender

Library Technician 2  
7/17/2023

Library

A lifelong resident of Baltimore, Maryland, Corey Allender relocated to Klamath Falls after receiving his Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Maryland in 2023. His professional interests include library outreach and creating inclusive, supportive library services and spaces.

Allender is an avid reader and Baltimore Ravens fan and lives with his spouse, Ali, and their cat, Bert.



### Michael Anderson

Head Coach Track & Field and Cross Country  
2/1/2023

Athletics

This is Michael Anderson's second season as head coach of the men's and women's cross country and track programs. Anderson coached two All-Americans, three All-Cascade Conference cross-country runners, three track and field Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) champions, and a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Champion. Before Oregon Tech, Anderson spent 15 seasons as the top assistant for the College of Idaho cross country and track programs, focusing on distance runners. He helped the squad to eight Cascade Conference women's cross-country titles, seven CCC women's track and field, three CCC men's cross-country titles, and the 2021 CCC men's track championship, with four distance runners winning NAIA national titles.



### Stefan Andrei, Ph.D.

Professor and Department Chair Computer Systems Engineering Technology  
9/1/2023

Dr. Stefan Andrei graduated with a Bachelor and Master of Science from Cuza University of Iasi, Romania, in 1994 and 1995, respectively. He received his Doctor of Philosophy from Hamburg University, Germany, in 2000 as a World Bank Scholarship Japan graduate student.

His research interests include embedded systems and software engineering. Andrei served as a member of the Program Committee for many prestigious conferences. He was invited as a speaker at several universities and private organizations. He has already been a co-author of more than 100 peer-reviewed papers at reputable journals and conferences. Among his main contributions, he proved the problem of incremental counting satisfiability and invented the Linear Real-Time Logic useful for the verification of real-time embedded systems specifications. He was involved in more than 18 funded research projects. He taught many computer-related courses for more than 27 years.

Andrei is a Senior Member of the Association for Computing Machinery and an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers member. His hobbies include traveling, wildlife viewing, and stamp collecting and identification.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff

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Oregon Tech's Course for Future Success in a Changing Higher Education Environment



### Manish Arora

Visiting Instructor  
09/18/2023

Computer Systems Engineering Technology  
Portland-Metro Campus

Manish Arora graduated with a master's in computer and information science from the University of Oregon and a Master of Business Administration from Georgetown University.

Arora joined Intel Corporation as a Software Engineer after graduating from the University of Oregon and worked for years in the Strategic Business Development (SBD) group at Intel after getting his Master of Business Administration from Georgetown. More recently, Arora has been teaching Computer Science courses (C++, Python, Algorithms, Linux OS Fundamentals) at Portland Community College (PCC) and valuation modeling, and strategy courses at Golden Gate University (GGU).

Arora is a voracious reader and most of the books he peruses have a quantitative bent with a pronounced focus on Computer Science and its derivatives. He is also intrigued by all aspects of quantum mechanics (quantum entanglement, non-locality, quantum tunneling, the wave function), and Arora's digital library consists of a number of books by authors such as Carlo Rovelli, Roger Penrose, and Eugene Wigner.

Arora is convinced that reading books on a variety of topics provides him with the insights that catalyze and instigate creativity and make him a better teacher.



### Sonja Bickford, Ph.D.

Associate Professor  
9/1/2023

Management

Dr. Sonja Bickford relocated to Klamath Falls with her family last summer. Prior to her position as Associate Professor she served as a Visiting Professor at Oregon Tech. She served as an Associate Professor of Communication (Advertising and Public Relations) at the University of Nebraska Kearney where she taught courses with a business emphasis such as Integrated Marketing Communication, Copywriting, Communication Software, and Advertising Campaigns.

With a doctorate in global business and leadership, Bickford's research interests include topics in leadership, communication, and corporate social responsibility. She is also interested in international and transdisciplinary projects as well as addressing issues in martial arts, youth leadership, stakeholder engagement, and environmental and social impact assessments. Bickford served as the Director of Continuing Education, Study Abroad, and the Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs at the University of Great Falls in Montana where she was also an Assistant Professor in the Business Administration Department.

In her free time, Bickford enjoys spending time at the dojo training in various martial arts. She has black belts in taekwondo and karate. She also enjoys spending time with her family and their animals.



### Ruth Claire Black, Ed.D.

Dean of Online Education and Global Engagement  
8/1/2023

Online Learning

Dr. Ruth Claire Black is an experienced university administrator and faculty member with a career focus in online education. Before joining Oregon Tech, Black's prior appointment was as the Department Chair of the Master of Science in Digital Health Leadership and as the Chair of the Dissertation Year curriculum from the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London. Prior to joining Imperial College London in 2018, Black spent 2017 as a visiting scholar for technology and innovation at Namseoul University in Seoul, Korea. From 2011 to 2016, Black served as Executive Director of Online Innovation and Online Education for the California State University System, where she led system-wide initiatives involving online program design, development, and delivery.

Black's academic and research interests include developing professional identity, coaching to improve retention and student success, and student satisfaction as well as measurement and attainment of learning outcomes in technology-delivered courses.

Black holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, with minors in English and History from the University of California, Irvine, a Juris Doctorate from Vanderbilt University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Southern California.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff

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### Jacklyn Brechter, Ph.D.

Associate Professor  
9/18/2023

Physical Therapy

Dr. Jacki Brechter has served as a provider, faculty, researcher, and administrator in physical therapy and education for over 30 years. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Biokinesiology (with an emphasis in Biomechanics) from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy and a Doctor of Physical Therapy from California State University Long Beach and Chapman University, respectively. Her clinical experience is focused on Orthopedic and Sports physical therapy, with a history of managing chronic pain complaints. Her research interests include the efficacy of physical therapy, including education and clinical reasoning, biomechanics, and movement analysis. She is a long-term active member of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) particularly with the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) where she is currently involved in profession-wide data collection for promoting excellence in DPT education. Brechter has previously served in leadership roles through faculty senate and department levels. As an individual, she is excited to relocate to Klamath Falls to enjoy the natural beauty here and continue her yoga, being creative, and spending time with her family.



### Tyler Cegler

Regional Admissions Counselor  
7/17/2023

Admissions

Tyler Cegler is a two-time graduate of Montana State University, with degrees in history and secondary education, and earned his master's degree in student affairs in higher education from Colorado State University.

Cegler grew up in Montana, moved to Colorado, then Arizona (the cold part!), and now resides in Honolulu, Hawaii. There, he recruits students to join the Owl Ohana. Cegler brings with him 15 years of experience in Admissions and Enrollment Management, working for a variety of institutions. He is also the immediate past president of the Hawaii Association for College Admissions Counseling, where his focus has been on increasing access and diversity of educational options for students from the islands. Additionally, he has expanded professional development opportunities for local members, providing new educational sessions and expanded funding for training and conferences.

Cegler enjoys exploring his island home, sharing stories with friends and colleagues, enjoying some of the best food on the planet, and planning out his next international adventures.



### James Cloen

Librarian Tech Services  
6/1/2023

Library

Jim Cloen joins Oregon Tech Libraries after serving as a librarian at a college located in the Four Corners region of Northwest New Mexico since 2016. He obtained a Master of Library and Information Studies degree from the University of Oklahoma and began his academic library career in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Born and raised in Buffalo, New York, Cloen has also resided in Pennsylvania, Texas, Colorado, and now Oregon.

Cloen's wide-ranging interests include sports, music, movies, learning, traveling, hiking, and other outdoor activities. He looks forward to exploring more of the beautiful Pacific Northwest and the many outdoor opportunities available in the region.



### Ashley Crain

Cashier 2  
6/1/2023

Bookstore

Born and raised in Klamath Falls, Ashley Crain is a local graduate. She was a multi-sport athlete in high school and continues to enjoy exploring the trails surrounding Oregon Tech with her dog.

Crain started her career at the Tech Nest Store while an employee with Barnes and Noble. She became the Store Supervisor after a short three months. Crain is grateful to be able to continue her role at the store under the banner of Oregon Tech.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff

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Oregon Tech's Course for Future Success in a Changing Higher Education Environment



### Jared Dill

Assistant Director of Admissions  
11/1/2022

Admissions

Jared Dill has worked in higher education for nearly a decade with most of that experience at Klamath Community College before being hired by Oregon Tech. He earned a Master of Education in Enrollment Management and Policy from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Science in Communication from Oregon Tech. His career interests focus on strategic enrollment management, admissions, financial aid, and student retention.

Dill's previous career before higher education was working as a radio announcer and news director at Grants Pass Broadcasting in the Rogue Valley. He gained radio experience while working at KTEC during his undergraduate work, which paved the way for his radio experience.

Dill has lived in Oregon and Nevada but was born and raised in Klamath Falls. He has two daughters and enjoys traveling, swimming, gaming, hiking, and cooking.

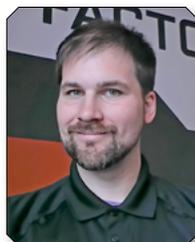


### Hunter Drops

Assistant Track & Field Coach  
1/3/2023

Athletics

This is Hunter Drops' second full season as an assistant coach for the cross country and track program. Hunter originally assisted the javelin throwers at the 2022 NAIA Championships, helping two athletes earn All-America honors. In 2023, Drops helped two multi-event athletes and four javelin throwers qualify for the NAIA Championships - including national champion, Alex Conley. A 2021 Oregon Tech grad in communication studies, Drops won the 2018 NAIA outdoor national title in the javelin, earning five All-America honors and two Cascade Conference titles during his career, and holds the Oregon Tech and CCC record in the javelin.



### Jonathon Elias

Director of Marketing & Communications  
5/15/2023

OMIC  
Scappoose Operations

Jon Elias is a native of the Pacific Northwest, raised in Vancouver, Washington. He graduated from Washington State University at the Vancouver campus and brings 10 years of marketing experience to the OMIC R&D team. Elias cut his teeth in the marketing industry as a blogger for a bicycle delivery company targeting local food carts in Portland.

Elias currently resides in Vancouver his roommate, Luna, a two-year-old French Bulldog rescue. His hobbies include homebrewing, birding, traveling, and playing the ukulele.



### Josue Garcia

Trades/Maintenance Coordinator  
3/22/2023

Portland-Metro Campus

Josue Garcia was born in Portland and raised in the Willamette Valley. Garcia went to Dallas High School and earned a general educational development (GED) at Clackamas Community College. Garcia began employment in manufacturing printed circuit boards but changed to work in maintenance. Garcia has been in this field for the past 20 years and has worked at various buildings throughout the valley, as well as working for the City of Salem. Garcia's philosophy while working at Oregon Tech is to ensure that the building is in good working order so students can receive education with as little disruption as possible.

Garcia's hobbies are working on cars, traveling, and spending time with friends. Garcia has two sons: the oldest works in education and the youngest attends the University of Oregon.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff



### Alexis Garrison

Head Volleyball Coach  
4/17/2023

Athletics

Alexis Garrison came from Evergreen State College where she played volleyball for two years and then coached for an additional three years. As the head of the program, she coached the setter of the year in 2022, along with three First Team CCC All-Conference, one Second Team All-Conference, and one NAIA All-American. Garrison also took Evergreen to the playoffs for the second time in school history and holds the highest winning record ever. In addition, Garrison coached 13 Academic All-CCC overall. She also received back-to-back Team Sportsmanship Awards in 2021 and 2022. Garrison finished with her bachelor's in education from Evergreen and her master's in coaching and athletics administration from Concordia University Irvine.



### Aaron Georis

Regional Admissions Counselor  
7/17/2023

Admissions  
Portland-Metro Campus

Aaron Georis graduated from the University of Oregon's Clark Honors College with degrees in philosophy, political science, English, and global service. While living in Eugene, Georis began working as a Student Ambassador for the University of Oregon, eventually giving over 150 tours to prospective students and families. As his interest in higher education grew, Aaron expanded his service as a member of the Operation Crew and was eventually promoted to Coordinator for Operations, where he helped direct, organize, and execute large-scale orientation events for the University. Deciding to move to the Portland area, Georis was offered a job with the Oregon Tech Office of Admissions, where he now works recruiting, supporting, and advising students in Portland and Vancouver.

Beyond his professional interests, Georis has a passion for the outdoors, and on any given day you can find him out rock climbing, free diving, mountaineering, backpacking, or skiing. Having grown up on the California coast, Georis developed an early love for the natural world, and to this day strives to be a steward of the environment in all aspects of his life.

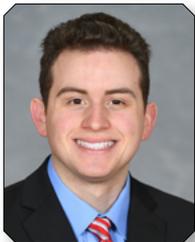


### Sarah Gibson

Coordinator, OMIC Academy  
5/9/2023

OMIC  
Scappoose Operations

Sarah Gibson was hired as the OMIC Academy Coordinator to assist in the myriad details that swirl around events, training, grant writing, and planning. Gibson has a master's in instructional design and worked in the Barlow School district for four years. Gibson joins the OMIC Academy team because she is passionate about making positive changes in education.



### Mason Giustino

Regional Admissions Counselor  
7/17/2023

Admissions

Mason Giustino is a Washington state native who graduated from Washington State University (WSU) with a bachelor's in journalism and media production. After working in the Admissions office at WSU, Giustino was passionate about continuing to work with prospective and incoming students.

Giustino enjoys taking nature walks, traveling to new places, collecting PEZ dispensers, and spending time with his cat and partner.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff



### Eean Grimshaw, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor  
9/18/2023

Communication Studies

Dr. Eean Grimshaw is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst (Doctor of Philosophy) by way of the University of Montana (Master of Arts). As a communication scholar, Grimshaw uses and develops ethnographic studies of communication including cultural discourse analysis. His research primarily focuses on the integration of communication and culture. Grimshaw is interested in how notions of identity, place, action, feeling, and relationships are communicatively constructed and find use amongst those communities that value and believe in the significance of these communicative practices. He is especially interested in how people communicate the above in intercultural encounters and cross-culturally.

Grimshaw's current research includes two unrelated kinds of communication. One line focuses on Native American Communication and Culture and includes amongst other projects an investigation of a Blackfeet (Amskapi Piikuni) discourse of identity that finds use in the Native America Speaks program as run out of Glacier National Park, Montana, during the summer tourist seasons. The second line of research concerns the increasing appearances of politicians and in particular presidential candidates on late-night talk shows including how politics is "done" and how politics is becoming increasingly encompassed by late-night talk show's entertainment goals.



### David Grossnickle, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor  
9/18/2023

Natural Sciences

Dr. David Grossnickle is an Indiana native who obtained degrees at DePauw University (Bachelor of Arts in Biology), Indiana University (Master of Science in Geology), and The University of Chicago (Doctor of Philosophy in Evolutionary Biology). Prior to entering academia, he spent several years as a high school biology teacher in Indiana, teaching mostly Anatomy & Physiology and Advanced Placement Biology. Most recently, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Washington, which included teaching a summer paleontology fieldwork course. His research focuses on macroevolutionary patterns, with his preferred study organisms including both modern and extinct/fossil mammals. His courses at Oregon Tech will focus on anatomy and physiology.

Away from work, Grossnickle enjoys hiking, volleyball, basketball, turn-based strategy games, sampling microbrews, and hanging out with his wife, Allison, and dog, Calvin. He also stays active in multiple outreach programs. This includes serving as an instructor and organizer for the DIG Field School for teachers, which is a professional development program that provides K-12 teachers with a four-day "crash course" in paleontological fieldwork in Montana.



### Rochelle Hantzmon

Office Specialist 2  
11/1/2022

General Instruction

Rochelle Hantzmon is a Klamath Falls native. She has two boys and a girl whom she has made the highest importance in her life. Her passion is helping other people, so working with faculty, staff, and students at Oregon Tech has been a wonderful opportunity.

Hantzmon is a graduate of Henley High School. She received her accounting degree and has worked in accounts payable and supporting financial accounting staff for over 15 years.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff

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### Jake Harsch

Custodian  
9/7/2023

Facilities Services

Jake Harsch is a versatile, motivated person whose hobbies and recreation activities include spending time with his wife and kids camping, hunting, and anything outdoors. Harsch is very excited to start this chapter in his life with Oregon Tech.



### Jacqueline Holodak

Administrative Program Specialist  
3/1/2023

Library  
Portland-Metro Campus

Jackie Holodak has lived in a lot of different places including Alaska and Vermont, but she has a soft spot for Oregon. She recently moved back to the area from Washington with her partner and two cats. She enjoys gaming, crocheting, trying different types of food, and exploring fun places in Oregon. She enjoys all types of library work from working with students to helping with digital archives. She has a Bachelor of Arts in History from Portland State University and a master's in library science and information from the University of Kentucky.



### Lara Hoss

Visiting Instructor  
9/18/2023

Humanities and Social Sciences

Lara Hoss is a current doctoral candidate at Texas Tech University in the Couple, Marriage, and Family Therapy program. Hoss received a master's in marriage and family therapy from Purdue University Northwest. Currently, Hoss will be joining Oregon Tech as a Visiting Instructor in Marriage and Family Therapy. After graduating from Texas Tech University, Hoss wants to work in academia, specifically in a Couple and Family Therapy graduate program, and teach, supervise training therapists, engage in scholarly work, and maintain a small clinical practice.



### Wayne Hung, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor  
9/18/2023

Natural Sciences

Dr. Wayne Hung (he/his/him) is a Taiwanese native who earned his Bachelor of Engineering in Chemical Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Geography from National Taiwan University. He received his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles. His research interests lie at the intersection of environmental chemistry and microbiology. Specifically, his research focused on the prevalence and fate of metal(loid)s and antibiotic resistance in the environment and their corresponding microbial ecology. After finishing his doctoral work, he spent approximately two years working as a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, Los Angeles. Following that, he served as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Biochemistry and Chemistry Department and Environmental Science program at Loyola Marymount University. In addition to his research and teaching, he is passionate about pedagogy research aimed at addressing issues of inclusivity and diversity in STEM education.

Hung enjoys hiking, watching sports, playing basketball, and traveling. He is excited to explore Klamath Falls and Oregon, where he can indulge in his love for nature and outdoor activities, including visiting national forests and parks.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff

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### Ganghee Jang, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor  
9/18/2023

Computer Systems Engineering Technology

Dr. Ganghee Jang received his Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of California, Irvine. His focus of study was Computer Architecture, but since graduation, he has worked at various research/industry positions before joining Oregon Tech. The projects he participated in are from various domains such as one in the domain of biometrics, a Deep Reinforcement Learning project to apply to medical imaging, one to speed up an algorithm with multi-GPGPUs, effect processors for musical instruments, etc. Also, during his role as a product manager at Cortek in South Korea, he successfully performed many tasks to revive the legendary U.S. guitar effect processor brand, DigiTech. As he is interested in teaching students' project classes, all these experiences will be helpful in advising students' individual projects. His current research interests are heterogeneous computing (Field Programmable Gate Arrays, hardware accelerators, etc.), and real-time operating systems on the embedded system.

In his leisure time, Jang likes to play guitar and read articles on musical instruments. Sometimes, he plays badminton games with his family. As a father of three kids, he likes the beautiful and safe environment in Klamath Falls.



### Faut Karakaya, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor  
9/18/2023

Computer Systems Engineering Technology

Dr. Faut Karakaya received his Bachelor of Science from Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey, Master of Science from Illinois Institute of Technology, and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Tennessee in Electrical Engineering. Afterward, he joined Intel as a Design Automation Engineer. He worked as an Assistant Professor at Nigde University (Nigde, Turkey) and Turkish Aeronautical Association University (Ankara, Turkey). He also served as a private consultant for several companies. His main research interests are Very Large Scale Integration design, Field Programmable Gate Arrays, Embedded Systems, and Industrial Plasma Engineering.



### Deborah Kerr

Administrative Program Assistant  
2/8/2023

Student Affairs  
Portland-Metro Campus

Debbie Kerr graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor of Science and came to Oregon Tech with 10 years of experience in the non-profit sector. As a previous program manager with Oregon FIRST, she will continue to support students as they pursue their education, particularly in STEM education. With more than six years of experience hosting events and serving as a volunteer coordinator, her passion is connecting industry mentors with students. Kerr believes the world is built better together, values the impact of community, and enjoys learning the stories of those around her.

As a mother of five children, Kerr has spent 29 years supporting students as they discover their passion. Growing up as a mobile Air Force brat, she has enjoyed spending the last 27 years exploring the outdoors in the Pacific Northwest. Kerr also enjoys quilting, meditating, and reading.



### Ian King, D.B.A.

Instructor  
9/18/2023

Management  
Portland-Metro Campus

Originally from California, Dr. Ian King moved to Oregon in the 1990s and finally settled in Washington County with his wife, Kim, to raise their son in the countryside. Although King has had many years in the industry and higher education, his favorite job always remains "dad".

King earned his doctorate at George Fox University and has a Master of Business Administration from Chapman University and a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from the University of Southern California. King is a strong advocate for community service and is active with both industry and community organizations. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Oregon Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association and continues as a member and volunteer, where he is a board-certified Fellow. He also served on the Doctor of Business Administration Advisory Board for George Fox University.

King has been an elected member of the Beaverton City Council, and currently volunteers with the Hillsboro School District as a member of the Education Equity Advisory and Budget Committees, and as a classroom volunteer.



### Thomas Kivatinos, Ph.D.

Instructor  
9/18/2023

Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr. Thomas Kivatinos received his Doctor of Philosophy in 2017 from the City University of New York Graduate Center and has taught at several colleges across the United States. He works primarily in metaphysics, the history and philosophy of science, moral theory, and various areas of applied ethics. His current research program uses a science-based philosophical framework to develop a system of ontological theories that are rooted in the explanatory practices of science.



### Kimberly Koops-Wrabek

Assistant Vice President for Government Relations  
2/8/2023

President's Office  
Portland-Metro Campus

Kimberly (Kim) Koops began her tenure in February and immediately launched into the legislative session.

She has over a decade of experience working with policymakers at both state and national levels and developing strategies for successful advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels. Koops comes to Oregon Tech from the University of Oregon. Prior to this, she worked on Capitol Hill with Senator Ron Wyden and Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici.

In her position, Koops leads Oregon Tech's government relations initiatives and serves as the primary point of contact for legislative and congressional outreach. She works closely with Oregon Tech leadership to develop strategic and collaborative relationships at all levels of government. She also serves on the Legislative Advisory Committee of the Oregon Council of Presidents and liaisons with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

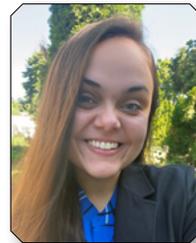


### Naga Srinivas Korivi, Ph.D.

Associate Professor  
9/1/2023

Electrical Engineering & Renewable Energy  
Portland-Metro Campus

Dr. Naga Korivi received a Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 2011. His doctoral research on bio-implantable micro-devices received the best Doctor of Philosophy dissertation recognition in 2011 from the Division of Electrical and Computer Engineering at LSU. Korivi's professional experience includes serving as Assistant Professor from 2012 to 2018 and as Associate Professor from 2018 to 2023 in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Tuskegee University, Alabama. He brings with him extensive experience in student engagement initiatives, retention, and incorporating technology into classrooms. Korivi has an interdisciplinary research background, with innovations spanning several areas such as energy storage devices, semiconductor manufacturing, advanced composites, and biomedical devices, among others. Korivi's research has received funding totaling several million dollars from agencies such as the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



### Cassidy Kotter

Assistant Director for Government Relations  
9/11/2023

President's Office  
Portland-Metro Campus

Cassidy Kotter is an Oregon native who graduated from the University of Oregon in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in Legal Studies. Her professional background is in political/legislative affairs, having been a field organizer and campaign manager for candidates from various levels of government across the state. She most recently served as Representative Nathan Sosa's legislative aide over the course of the 2023 session, where she discovered an immense passion for working hands-on with public policy related to higher education.

As a first-generation college attendee and graduate, Kotter is looking forward to stepping into a role at Oregon Tech that will allow her to lead the effort to make higher education more accessible for students from historically underrepresented backgrounds.

Kotter's hobbies include reading, geocaching, hiking, making homemade soups, and spending time with her friends, family, and cat, Bali. Much of her free time is spent as a volunteer/advocate for several different organizations, including the Oregon Sierra Club and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Clackamas County.



### Trent LaMont

Associate MSR - Additive  
6/26/2023

OMIC  
Scappoose Operations

Trent LaMont is a recent graduate of Oregon Tech with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. During his time at Oregon Tech, he explored research related to tool wear analysis and additive manufacturing in direct energy deposition and binder jetting.

LaMont is very excited to join the OMIC R&D team as a researcher in their additive group. He believes that they can advance the state of additive manufacturing and drive the adoption of the technology with local manufacturers. He hopes to continue to grow his skill set and become an individual highly skilled in applied research and development surrounding additive manufacturing.

LaMont enjoys kayaking, snowboarding, and hiking to stay active and engaged in his surroundings. Giving back to his community is very important to him and remains a focus in his life.



### Joy Lease

Head Women's Basketball Coach  
5/8/2023

Athletics

Joy Lease spent the 2022-23 season as Assistant Coach of the Oregon Tech Women's Basketball program. Before that, she served as head coach at Mazama High School in Klamath Falls for 12 years where she was also a school counselor. Throughout her coaching career, she has won state championships in 2009 and 2013 and was awarded National Federation of State High School Associations Northwest Region Coach of the Year in 2017.

Lease played basketball and softball at Linfield College and in her free time, she enjoys kayaking and spending time with her husband and three daughters.



### Kangjae Lee, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor  
9/18/2023

Electrical Engineering and Renewable Energy

Dr. Kangjae Lee joins Oregon Tech with his area of expertise in solar thermochemistry. He received his Bachelor of Science from Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST), Daejeon, and Master of Science from Seoul National University, South Korea, and his Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Florida.

During his time at the University of Florida, Lee served as a graduate research assistant and lab safety manager in the Renewable Energy Conversion Laboratory developing a laser-based heating system coupled with Raman spectroscopy for characterizing solar thermochemical redox materials. After graduation, Lee served as a postdoctoral researcher at the German Aerospace Center (DLR) Institute of Future Fuels for two years with DLR-DAAD Research Fellowship. His research focuses on the development and characterization of new redox materials for solar thermochemical fuel production, including green hydrogen and precursors of hydrocarbon aviation fuels.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff

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Oregon Tech's Course for Future Success in a Changing Higher Education Environment



### Meng-Lun Lee

Assistant Professor Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering Technology  
9/18/2023

Dr. Meng-Lun Lee received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Chung Yuan Christian University, Taoyuan, Taiwan; a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from National Chung Cheng University, Chiayi, Taiwan; and a Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering, from the University at Buffalo, New York. He has more than three years of experience in the manufacturing industry, and his research interests include robotics, automation controls, and vision-guided robotic systems with human-robot collaboration.



### Christina Li

Accountant 2  
3/1/2023

Business Affairs  
Portland-Metro Campus

Christina Jinghui Li is a Portland State University graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting/Management and a Master of Science in Financial Analysis. She has 17 years of combined professional financial experience working at Oregon Health Science University and Portland State University, before coming to Oregon Tech.

Li lives in the Portland-Metro area and grew up in China. She is actively involved in and on the board of the Portland Sister City Association /Suzhou, China (PSSCA), and other international communities. Besides work, Li enjoys family life with her daughter and husband. She likes playing tennis, hiking, reading, and cooking.



### Candace Martin

Administrative Program Specialist  
8/14/2023

Business Affairs

Candace Martin is an Oregon native, born and raised in Harney County, a county that is larger than six U.S. states with a population of less the one person per square mile. She and her family relocated to the Basin in 2021 for her husband to pursue a degree in land surveying at Oregon Tech. She used the opportunity to get a foot in the door of higher education and is excited to use her background as a banker to assist all students and staff with their accounts receivable needs.

Martin is the mom of a kindergartener and loves to go fishing, camping, and paddleboarding in the summer and enjoys going hunting, snowboarding, and snowmobiling in the fall and winter. Above all, she enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends, having fun, and making memories.



### Pake Melland, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor  
9/18/2023

Mathematics

Dr. Pake Melland grew up in a small North Dakota town before attending North Dakota State University, where he completed undergraduate degrees in mathematics and math education. He meandered through his undergraduate degree until taking a mathematical biology course. At that point, the applied math bus came by, and he got on. He went on to earn his Doctor of Philosophy at The University of Iowa in Applied Mathematical & Computational Sciences. Following his degree, he was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, as part of a National Science Foundation-funded Research Training Group. His research focuses on data-driven modeling and analysis of dynamical systems with an emphasis on applications in neuroscience. He has been teaching math in various shapes and forms for over 10 years and enjoys all levels of mathematics.

In his free time (that's a thing, right?), Melland enjoys card games and most outdoor leisure activities. He also ensures his backyard compost remains healthy and active.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff

Oregon Tech's Course for Future Success in a Changing Higher Education Environment

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### Mark Mitchell

Facilities Manager  
6/26/2023

OMIC  
Scappoose Operations

Mark Mitchell grew up in Newberg, Oregon. He took metal shop classes during his junior year and began working at a local metal fabrication shop for credit during the last two periods of his senior year. After high school, he began working as an Industrial Maintenance Millwright and earned his Oregon Bureau of Labor & Industries Journeyman card in 1995. He went on to work in pulp and paper, steel mills, foundries, chemical plants, and high-tech industries throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Mitchell worked his way through college as a part-time student, eventually earning a Bachelor of Science from Portland State University. He also has a great passion for leading and participating in team-based process improvement. He studied Lean Manufacturing extensively as a post-graduate student, earning a certificate in Operational Excellence & Lean Manufacturing from the Shingo Institute at Utah State University.

Mitchell is a singer/songwriter, forming his first rock band in the sixth grade. He went on to write and perform concerts all over the northwest in various iterations, from metal bands in the 80s to a bit more "age-appropriate" hard-rock bands in his 30s and 40s. He still writes and records original acoustic rock as a solo artist, performing occasionally in venues around the Portland metro area, and still gets together with the drummer and bass player he played with in high school from time to time.



### Thomas Moore

Head Coach Women's Soccer  
3/1/2023

Athletics

This is Thomas Moore's first season as head coach of the women's soccer program. Before Oregon Tech, Moore served as head coach at Highline College from 2006-22, compiling an all-time record of 201-81-42 and winning Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) tournament titles in 2017 and 2019, advancing to the NWAC title game in 2015 and 2016, while reaching the semifinals in 2007 and 2018. His teams won seven NWAC West Region championships and he spent 2002-06 as an Assistant at Highline with both the men's and women's sides, with the men's team making five-straight playoff appearances, including winning the 2004 NWAC title. Moore is a two-time NWAC Coach of the Year and seven-time NWAC West Region Coach of the Year.



### Michael Newell

Custodian  
7/6/2023

Facilities Services

Michael Newell is a retired self-employed contractor and an avid enthusiast of jazz music. Newell's hobbies are woodworking, cooking, listening to classical music, and spoiling his pets. His favorite films are all in black and white. Newell also likes the other two types of music: country and western.



### Mary-Jane Owen

Associate Director  
7/17/2023

Educational Partnerships & Outreach

Mary-Jane Owen obtained a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Missouri State University with an emphasis in Mathematics and a certification as a Library Media Specialist. In 2021, Owen co-created a literacy program called Boosting an Understanding In Literacy Development (BUILD) that provides workshops and resources to families of children from birth-kindergarten age in rural towns that don't have access to public libraries. She has loved teaching elementary grades in Missouri and Iowa for the last 21 years and is excited to use that experience at Oregon Tech creating pathways for student success in higher education.

Owen plans to increase pre-college visits and programming for younger students to facilitate an early interest in the polytechnic fields. She and her family moved to Oregon this summer and she appreciates the variety of outdoor activities, the scenic lakes and mountains, and the absence of humidity and copperheads.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff



### Travis Owen, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor  
9/18/2023

Natural Sciences

Dr. Travis Owen is a Missouri native who obtained his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Missouri State University and his Doctor of Philosophy in Synthetic Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Iowa. His career has spanned 12 years as a Professor at Cornell College and Missouri Valley College - two small, private liberal arts institutions - and The University of Iowa. His passion for preparing students to succeed after their collegiate experience has driven him to develop novel teaching strategies to engage his students in learning not just about chemistry, but lessons for life as well. His research has ranged from spin-crossover ferrous cyanooxime complexes, biological nitric oxide transport, agricultural impacts on water quality and novel solar cell dye molecules.

As his career progresses, he has developed a passion for environmental chemistry research, especially in renewable solar energy and in human impacts on regional ecosystems - providing ample opportunity for laboratory and field experience for students.

Owen and his family are new to Oregon and the Klamath Falls area, and they have loved exploring all the incredible outdoor experiences it has to offer. He has enjoyed going on hiking adventures with his wife, two sons, and their dog, Aurora.



### Alan Pence

Grounds Maintenance Worker 1  
9/1/2023

Facilities Services

Alan Pence lives in Bonanza with his wife of six years, Ashlie Pence, and two sons, Wesley and William. Pence was an auto and truck mechanic for 20 years before deciding to make a career change to join Oregon Tech.



### Chase Pittman

Human Resource Generalist  
7/24/2023

Human Resources

After completing his graduate program at Florida International University, Chase Pittman went on to work for Florida Atlantic University in their Human Resources Department. After moving to North Carolina, he began working at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte Registrar's Department.



### Lupe Preciado

Admissions Counselor  
7/17/2023

Admissions

Lupe Preciado grew up in the small city of Arvin, California, and has a Bachelor of Science in Business Management with a minor in Creative Writing from the University of California, Merced. After earning a bachelor's from UC Merced, Preciado explored the world of retail management which ultimately led to running their own store for Vans.

Preciado had the opportunity to live and work in Ventura County, San Luis Obispo, and for a few months lived nomadically in a converted van visiting western states. During their travels, they were introduced to beautiful Klamath Falls, which Preciado now calls home.

In their spare time, Preciado loves getting lost in thrift stores, writing in a personal blog, taking photos of natural landscapes, and reading self-help books to help maintain a healthy mindset.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff



### Adam Ray

Visiting Instructor  
9/18/2023

Humanities and Social Sciences

Adam Ray was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and has lived primarily in the Southwest for the majority of his life. He joined the Army at 18 and was with the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), deploying with them several times. He is a 2022 doctoral graduate from Texas A&M University-Commerce with a bachelor's degree in psychology from Texas A&M University. After graduating, he relocated to La Grande, Oregon, and worked as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Eastern Oregon University for one year, then moved to Salem. His primary area of research is in Social Psychology, with a specialization in the fields of Virtual Reality and Social Identity Theory.

Ray is fond of reading, working out, hiking, and video games in his spare time. He is excited to work with the students, faculty, and administration at Oregon Tech, as well as explore all the outdoor opportunities that the Klamath Basin offers.



### Tammie Retherford

Director, TRiO-TOP  
7/5/2023

Student Success Center

Tammie L. Retherford has been in education for over 25 years. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature from Texas Woman's University and a Master of Arts in English Language, Rhetoric, and Composition from the University of Tulsa. As a career educator, she has exemplary knowledge in serving individuals from diverse backgrounds, providing support to facilitate progress from K-12 through postsecondary education. In working with a broad range of individuals, she demonstrates dedication to cultivating community-based and equitable relationships. These relationships have laid the necessary foundation for her to utilize community and educational resources to help individuals overcome life's challenges.

Throughout her career, Retherford has successfully served as a professional educator and in leadership positions such as mentoring, professional development developer and facilitator, department chair, LPAC chair, department coordinator, and grant administrator. In these roles, she has navigated state and federal laws, ensuring compliance as well as the proven ability to execute local ordinances and policies within the guidelines of governing statutes.

As a first-generation individual, Retherford is amazed and proud that she has lived in many parts of the United States and around the world, including Texas, Oklahoma, Illinois, Hawaii, Mexico, Japan, Thailand, and the Netherlands. She enjoys living in Oregon so much that she calls Klamath Falls her home. She loves to travel, read, write, cook, hike, ride bikes, Muy Thai, and almost any water activity. She has two adult children. Her daughter is a K-12 art teacher and Navy veteran, and her son is a Mechanical and Energy Engineer, who live in Texas and Kansas, respectively.



### Joseph Rourke

Education Partnerships Manager  
9/18/2023

Educational Partnerships & Outreach

Joe Rourke has been in education for the better part of 20 years. Specializing in working with middle and high school students with learning disabilities, he earned his teaching credential from California State University, Los Angeles. Previously, he worked in the film industry after earning his Bachelor of Fine Arts at the prestigious California Institute of the Arts—or CalArts as it is popularly known. Before that, he worked in the construction industry as a drafter and architectural apprentice. In short, he has worn many hats! Rourke truly thinks of himself as a jack of all trades and a master of none. Needless to say, he values education in bettering himself and those around him. He has enjoyed mentoring students and continues to learn from those who can teach him. Originally from Los Angeles, Rourke has lived in Klamath Falls for about a year and has finally begun to feel at home. In his off time, he enjoys hiking and cycling with his 19-year-old son. Rourke looks forward to working with his colleagues here in Klamath, as well as his counterparts based in Portland.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff



### Darrell Roush

Electrical/Control System Tech  
9/5/2023

Facilities Services

Darrell Roush was born in Medford and graduated from Eagle Point High School. He has been a Journeyman Electrician for 33 years, most recently working for Vale Electric on Merrill's solar project. Recently married in June, his hobbies include fishing, hunting, golf, and lifting weights.



### Christopher Sacks

Bookstore Manager  
7/1/2023

Bookstore

Born and raised in San Francisco, Christopher Sacks brings 20 years of business management experience to Oregon Tech. Sacks received his Bachelor of Science in Business Management and his Master of Science in Finance in 2005 and 2008. After spending many years as a triathlete, he transitioned into a finance role, working at a prestigious brokerage firm as an Equity Analyst.

Ten years ago, Sacks moved to Klamath Falls to take care of his mother. He decided to stay and explore the many running trails that surround the basin with his three dogs.



### Taylor Sanchez

Career Advisor  
7/10/2023

Career Services  
Portland-Metro Campus

Taylor Sanchez is originally from Texas and is a graduate of Angelo State University with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. Throughout Sanchez's education and years in the workforce, she has helped students in higher education find their own pathways to success. It was through these experiences that she discovered her passion for helping people overcome obstacles and accomplish their goals.

In Sanchez's free time, she enjoys reading a variety of books, spending time with friends and family, and listening to music. She is really looking forward to working with, learning from, and encouraging students on their pathways.



### Maleah Sandy

Athletic Trainer  
8/1/2023

Athletics

Maleah Sandy is a 2023 graduate of Sterling College in Kansas with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science Pre-Athletic Training and a Master of Science in Athletic Training. Throughout graduate school, Sandy had clinical experiences at high school and collegiate levels, as well as in the hospital and emergency medical settings.

After graduation, she moved to Klamath Falls with her fiancé, Justin, and they both started their careers working at Oregon Tech.



### Victoria Seward

Accounting Operations Manager  
12/19/2022

Business Affairs

Victoria Seward is a homegrown Pacific Northwest enthusiast, growing up in North Bend and Snoqualmie, just east of the bustling Seattle metro. Having lived everywhere between there and Phoenix, she decided to switch gears and make Klamath Falls her new stomping grounds in 2022. With close to two decades of private-industry accounting experience, Seward's no stranger to the world of numbers. She has a "roll-up-your-sleeves and get-it-done" approach, developed in the scrappy fields of property management and real estate development. Seward's more than just a numbers guru. She's got a knack for finding better ways to get things done and a curiosity that knows no bounds. You might catch her exploring new corners of the world, losing herself in a good book, or getting artsy with painting and photography. So, why Oregon Tech? Seward's down-to-earth approach, passion for learning, and constant improvement fit right in with our community.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff



### Irish Singh, Ph.D.

Instructor  
9/18/2023

Computer Systems Engineering Technology

Dr. Irish Singh completed her Doctor of Philosophy in Software Engineering in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Graduate School of Computer Engineering at Ajou University, Suwon, South Korea, in June 2022. She completed her Master of Technology at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi, and Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science and Engineering at UP (State) Technical University, Lucknow, India.

Singh has published top-tier book chapters, journals, and research articles such as Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Communications, Springer journals, etc. Her book, Blockchain Technology for IoT Applications, is available in several libraries, including those of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford, Carnegie Mellon University, and globally. Her research interests include adaptive security, cloud computing, requirements engineering, big data, blockchain technology, and the IoT.



### Laurie Sprauer

Assistant Professor  
1/3/2023

Medical Laboratory Science  
Portland-Metro Campus

Laurie Sprauer joins Oregon Tech after 20-plus years spent in the clinical laboratory. During that time, she was a Quality Assurance Supervisor, a Technical Supervisor, a night shift generalist, and a Hematology Specialist. She earned her degree in medical laboratory science at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, which included an externship at the Mayo Clinic, and her Master of Business Administration in Health Management from Western Governors University. She fell in love with teaching through developing extensive new employee and continuing education training programs and volunteering in her daughter's school. She is excited to conduct research involving laboratory results that are impacted by gender transitions and student learning through simulations and games.

In her spare time, Sprauer loves to cook, enjoy Oregon wines, and read while she relaxes on the beaches of Hawaii.



### Rebecca Steen

Assistant Director  
10/24/2022

Admissions  
Portland-Metro Campus

After working for seven years at community colleges in Northern California and Southern Oregon, Rebecca Steen moved to Wilsonville in 2022 to join the Oregon Tech team. She received a Master of Education in Health and Wellness with a 4.0 GPA and has taken courses in Human Learning, Leadership, School and Community Issues, as well as Behavioral Diversity. Steen has accumulated several years of experience in higher education through which she provided support services to new and transfer students. She works to eliminate equity gaps while promoting access to higher education and academic success.

During her free time, Steen enjoys traveling to the coast, hiking with her family and their dog, exploring the vibrant cultural opportunities that Portland has to offer, and baking.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff



### Lynn Thomson

Program Representative 1  
8/14/2023

Educational Partnerships & Outreach

Lynn Thomson was raised in Chiloquin until she graduated high school. She then moved to Washington and after eight and a half years of big city life in Seattle, she relocated back to the Klamath Basin in the winter of 2005. Between Washington and Oregon, Thomson has obtained a combination of 25 years of customer experience through a variety of occupational pathways, including two years in the Klamath County School District where she enjoyed her time so much that she wanted to advance herself by joining Oregon Tech.

It has always been Thomson's mission to seek new experiences and adventures and has gravitated toward many lifelong interests and hobbies. Thomson enjoys cooking, kayaking, camping, zip lining, attending concerts, traveling, and Oregon Tech basketball games.



### Sara Welsh

Administrative Program Specialist  
4/3/2023

Humanities and Social Sciences

Sara Welsh is a recent graduate of the Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis program at Oregon Tech where she also finished her bachelor's in applied psychology. Welsh is the Administrative Program Specialist for the BIG ABA Clinic where she hopes to continue working after finishing her thesis and hours to become a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

While not at work, Welsh enjoys exploring Oregon with her four wonderful boys and husband.



### Alissa Whiteley

Instructor  
9/18/2023

Mathematics

Alissa Whiteley graduated from Clarkson University in 2020 with a Master of Science in Mathematics. While completing her degree, she was a teaching assistant for the Math department. During her time in this position, she enjoyed teaching and helping students. Whiteley is looking forward to continuing to teach and getting students excited about math. She is also looking forward to living in Klamath Falls and doing activities like skiing and hiking.



### Shiyu Yang, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor  
9/18/2023

Electrical Engineering and Renewable Energy

Dr. Shiyu Yang's research expertise is in intelligent algorithms, e.g., model predictive control, machine learning, and data-driven techniques, as well as practical applications in smart energy systems, e.g., building energy systems, renewables, thermal & electric energy storage, and electric vehicles for energy efficiency improvement and environmental impact mitigation.

Before joining Oregon Tech, he was an Ezra Systems Postdoctoral Fellow with the System Engineering Program at Cornell University from 2021 to 2023 and a Research Fellow with the Energy Research Institute at Nanyang Technological University from 2020 to 2021. In 2020, he obtained a Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering from Nanyang Technological University, where his research focused on smart building control with model predictive control and machine learning techniques. He obtained a master's and a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering from Beihang University in 2016 and 2013, respectively.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff



### Matthew Young

Assistant Director  
5/30/2023

Housing

Matt "Moose" Young brings over 10 years of housing experience to Oregon Tech. Before Oregon Tech he was the Community Director for Family & Graduate Housing at Montana State University in Bozeman. Prior to that, he was a Residence Life Coordinator and Summer Conference Coordinator at New Mexico Tech in Socorro, New Mexico. Before New Mexico, Moose worked in housing at Western Wyoming Community College and Trinidad State College in Colorado. He also worked as a photographer and graphics designer for Casper College in Wyoming and spent 15+ years as a photojournalist.

Young earned an Associate of Arts from Casper College and a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Colorado State University - Global. Moose has family in Kansas, Vancouver, British Columbia, and Norway. His fiancé and stepdaughter are enjoying the Klamath Falls area, settling in, and looking forward to having some wonderful adventures. Having lived and worked up and down the eastern side of the Rockies he is especially excited to be in Oregon. Even though he tried and tried in grade school, he never made it to Oregon without dying of dysentery, until now.

## Other New Faculty and Staff

### Jose Lepe Gonzalez

Admissions Counselor  
Admissions  
6/26/23

### Richard Torres

Instructor  
Natural Sciences  
7/1/2023

### Luis Esteban Hernandez

Assistant Professor  
Electrical Engineering & Renewable Energy  
1/9/2023

### Niki Young

Counselor  
Student Affairs  
4/5/2023  
Portland-Metro Campus

### Joshua Johnson

Behavior Interventionist  
Humanities & Social Sciences  
6/26/2023

**\*The new employee list is provided by Human Resources.**

**Personal biographies are provided by employees.**

**ALL NEW FACULTY & STAFF  
ARE ENCOURAGED TO GET A  
PROFESSIONAL PORTRAIT PHOTO  
This Thursday from 11:00 to Noon  
In the Fountain Quad**



Please avoid wearing yellow and green apparel. Darker apparel recommended





## *Oregon Tech Mission Statement*

*Oregon Institute of Technology (Oregon Tech), Oregon's public polytechnic university, offers innovative, professionally-focused undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the areas of engineering, health, business, technology, and applied arts and sciences. To foster student and graduate success, the university provides a hands-on, project-based learning environment and emphasizes innovation, scholarship, and applied research. With a commitment to diversity and leadership development, Oregon Tech offers statewide educational opportunities and technical expertise to meet current and emerging needs of Oregonians, as well as other national and international constituents.*

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## *Oregon Tech Vision Statement*

*Oregon Tech will be a student-centered, world-class polytechnic university that inspires students to become tomorrow's leaders*

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**Oregon** **TECH**

**Oregon Institute of Technology**