

## ***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**

Produced by Marketing, Communications, and Public Affairs (MarCoPa)



**Improving the Human Condition**

# ***Convocation***

**PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST  
AND WELCOME**

**September 23, 2025**

## President's Welcome

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



Dear Colleagues,

I am honored and delighted to welcome you to the 2025 Fall Convocation as we embark on another academic year together. Convocation is always a special moment – a time to pause, celebrate our shared achievements, and reaffirm our mission and our commitment to the future we are building. This year, I invite us to begin a new journey with an intentional awareness of a holistic goal that is timeless and deeply meaningful to all we serve, including those beyond the walls of our university: **Improving the Human Condition.**

At Oregon Tech, I firmly believe this theme captures the spirit of all we do and the essence of higher education. The human condition encompasses the experiences, challenges, and aspirations that bind us across time and culture. Guided by this lens, we see every discipline, every classroom, every laboratory, and every collaboration as a chance to uplift lives. Our distinctive blend of applied sciences, engineering, health professions, and technology, grounded in hands-on, applied learning, allows us to make a profound difference in the lives of so many.

We do this in many ways. Through our health programs and the moonshot initiative to build a College of Osteopathic Medicine, we are expanding access to rural healthcare and advancing wellness. Through our project-based learning and applied psychology programs, we are equipping students with competence and resilience. Through our traditions in engineering and sciences, our collaborations, and our polytechnic model, we are ensuring that Oregon Tech graduates leave here prepared to lead meaningful personal lives and successful professional careers. And through all we do, we are strengthening communities we serve, fueling innovation, and ensuring that our professional excellence contributes meaningfully to society.

Oregon Tech is more than a university. It is a catalyst for progress and a force for good. Together, we are shaping tomorrow's leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers to confront challenges with both intellect and compassion. Working together, we are elevating Oregon Tech as a destination of choice where the hearts and the minds converge to improve lives.

Thank you for your dedication, your creativity, and your service to our students and communities. With optimism and resolve, let us embrace this new year as an opportunity to advance excellence, deepen impact, and continue improving the human condition.

Go Owls!

Sincerely,

*Nagi G. Naganathan*

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



HEART + MIND (2011),  
Ralph Helmick

Located in the Dow Hall



**ALL NEW FACULTY & STAFF  
ARE ENCOURAGED TO GET A  
PROFESSIONAL PORTRAIT PHOTO**  
Thursday 9/25 from 12:00 to 2:00 pm  
in Sunset, the College Union





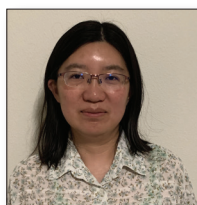
## Dr. Lyuan Xu

Assistant Professor  
9/15/2025

Electrical Engineering  
and Renewable Energy

Dr. Lyuan Xu earned his Bachelor of Science in Applied Physics from the University of Science and Technology of China, and both a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Xu's early research focused on advanced semiconductor technologies, particularly reliability challenges in 7-nm Fin Field-Effect Transistor (FinFET) devices, including single-event upsets, thermal neutron-induced soft errors, and high-current latchup-like phenomena, etc. Later, his work expanded to the study of functional brain networks, investigating white-gray matter connectivity changes in aging and Alzheimer's disease using advanced graph models and deep learning. He has published extensively in both electrical engineering and neuroimaging, advancing integrated circuit reliability and deepening insights into brain network organization and neurological disorders.



## Dr. Bing Yuan

Assistant Professor  
9/15/2025

Environmental Chemistry

Dr. Bing Yuan holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Physical Chemistry from the University of Arizona, a master's degree in environment from the University of Melbourne, and a Master of Science in Earth Science from Rice University. Before coming to Oregon Tech, she worked as a Research Associate at Colorado State University and Washington State University, and as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Cornell College for two years.

At Oregon Tech, she teaches general chemistry and environmental chemistry, helping students approach natural science problems through a chemical perspective. Her research focuses on reaction mechanisms in biological and environmental systems. She plans to expand her work at Oregon Tech by studying how plants defend against environmental stresses, as well as the role of abscisic acid in regulating fruit ripening and stress responses.

Outside of work, Dr. Yuan is a cat lover who also enjoys traveling, movies, gardening, and studying Chinese history.

## Other New Faculty and Staff\*

### Virginia Aragon-Barnes

Director of Environmental Health and Safety,  
8/18/2025

### Luke Borja

Regional Admissions Counselor, 9/2/2025

### Keeley Brant

Program Manager, Humanities and Social Sciences,  
12/9/2024

### Owen Haugh

MMET Lab Manager, 10/1/2024

### Steven King

Research Project Manager, OMIC R&D, 4/30/2025

### Laci Lourenzo

Assistant Athletic Trainer, 7/14/2025

### Devan Patel

Admissions Counselor, 7/7/2025

### Arthur Proost

Regional Admissions Counselor, 8/18/2025

### Xin "Erena" Sheng

Assistant Professor, Communication, 9/16/2025

### Krisa Spiesschaert

Office Specialist, Provost and Academic Affairs,  
9/2/2025

### Justin Stoller

Grounds Maintenance Worker 1, 5/19/2025

### Justine Thomas

Temporary Dental Assistant 2, 5/1/2025

## Executive Staff

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 extend my gratitude to every one of them.

~President Naganathan

Names in alphabetical order:

|                             |                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dr. Abdy Afjeh</b>       | Senior Vice Provost for Research and Academic Affairs                                                            |
| <b>Dr. Neslihan Alp</b>     | Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Management                                                   |
| <b>Dr. Mandi Clark</b>      | Vice President for Student Affairs                                                                               |
| <b>Alicia Dillon</b>        | Associate Vice President for Finance - Controller for Business Affairs                                           |
| <b>Dr. Hesham El-Rewini</b> | Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management                        |
| <b>Dr. Ken Fincher</b>      | Vice President for University Advancement, Executive Director of the Oregon Tech Foundation, and Board Secretary |
| <b>Dave Groff</b>           | Vice President and University General Counsel                                                                    |
| <b>Sandi Hanan</b>          | Associate Vice President of Human Resources                                                                      |
| <b>John Harman</b>          | Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration                                                              |
| <b>Don Hendrickson</b>      | Executive Director, OMIC R&D                                                                                     |
| <b>Suzanne Kunse</b>        | Associate Vice President of Government and Community Relations                                                   |
| <b>Gaylyn Maurer</b>        | Executive Director of Health and Wellness                                                                        |
| <b>Dr. Beverly McCreary</b> | Assistant Vice Provost of Faculty Relations                                                                      |
| <b>Adria Paschal</b>        | Senior Executive Assistant to the President                                                                      |
| <b>Dr. Michelle Preston</b> | Associate Dean, College of Health, Arts, and Sciences                                                            |
| <b>Tony Richey</b>          | Associate Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer                                 |
| <b>Dr. Denise Seabert</b>   | Interim Dean of the College of Health, Arts, and Sciences                                                        |
| <b>Dr. Greg Stringer</b>    | Associate Vice Provost of Strategic Enrollment Management and Retention                                          |
| <b>Douglas Tripp</b>        | Executive Director of Resilience, Emergency Management, and Safety                                               |
| <b>John Van Dyke</b>        | Director of Athletics                                                                                            |
| <b>Dr. Jennifer Wilson</b>  | Assistant Vice President of Institutional Equity                                                                 |
| <b>Dr. Linus Yu</b>         | Associate Vice Provost of Academic Excellence                                                                    |

## Provost's Welcome

Hesham El-Rewini, Ph.D., P.E.



Dear Colleagues,

As we gather for Convocation and welcome the start of another new year, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to have the opportunity to experience a new beginning each Fall. This time of year always makes me pause and reflect on one of my favorite quotes attributed to Jalal-al-Din Rumi:

**"Once again a new beginning! Take all the veils of the past and make a new garment."**

This quote encourages us to learn from our past experiences and create a fresh start. It suggests that we can transform our old challenges into something new and meaningful, much like crafting a new garment from old pieces of cloth.

I invite each of you to join me in embracing the spirit of a new beginning, hope, and positivity. Let us unite under "ONE Oregon Tech" banner to create a new garment that is big enough to accommodate collaboration, innovation, transformation, advancement, and success for all. Throughout my career, I have strived to foster honesty, openness, and principled leadership, and I know that Oregon Tech's greatest successes come when we all adopt and build on these values.

By focusing on our shared purpose, we can continue to transform challenges into opportunities and lay a foundation that will help Oregon Tech prosper and thrive for years to come. Together, we will teach our students not only technical subjects but also empathy, compassion, adherence to principles, and the understanding that our ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life for all human beings.

Let's begin the new academic year by celebrating our collective achievements and looking forward to the promise of the days ahead.

Respectfully,

Hesham El-Rewini, Ph.D., P.E.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management

## Guest Speaker

Jonathan Aberman

Jonathan Aberman, founder and CEO of the AI software firm Hupside Corporation, is widely regarded for his expertise in artificial intelligence, creativity and organizational change. He previously established and led Marymount University's College of Business Innovation, Leadership and Technology and now serves as an executive in residence at John Cabot University, advising on AI adoption and teaching entrepreneurship.

With advanced degrees in economics, law and political science, and experience mentoring AI start ups, Aberman will discuss how AI is transforming higher education. He will address the ethical and social implications of these technologies and offer practical guidance to help students, faculty and administrators engage with AI responsibly while nurturing original thought and critical analysis.



## Welcome New Faculty and Staff

Improving the Human Condition 25



### Jenny Whiteman

Counselor  
9/2/2025

Integrated Student Health Center,

Jenny Whiteman joins Oregon Tech as an Associate Counselor in the Integrated Student Health Center. Jenny was born and raised in Minnesota (where she remembers wearing snowsuits under her Halloween costumes). She pursued her Bachelor of Arts in History from Northwestern University and then spent 14 years working for organizations planning large-scale events (50,000-200,000 attendees) around the country and globe. The richness of these experiences, along with other volunteer and work opportunities, has enabled her to visit and spend significant time embedded in the cultures of 30 countries and seven major U.S. cities.

A career change spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic led her to begin her Master of Arts in Counseling: Clinical Mental Health through The Townsend Institute at Concordia University Irvine. During this time, she completed an internship at Washington County Counseling and Victims' Services. Prior to joining Oregon Tech, Jenny filled in for a counselor's maternity leave as a temporary counselor for Eastern Oregon University, where she found her passion for working with students.

Outside of her clinical work, Jenny enjoys reading a good book, playing with other people's dogs, having catch-up conversations with friends, and traveling when ticket prices are cheap enough.



### Brittany Williams

Executive Assistant  
7/28/2025

Office of the Provost

Brittany Williams recently joined Oregon Tech as an Executive Assistant in the Office of the Provost. With a background rooted in public service, Brittany brings several years of experience working in state government and with national non-profit organizations, focusing on work that serves communities and strengthens institutions.

Brittany attended Oregon State University, where she studied Agriculture and Speech Communication. She is eager to contribute to a culture of efficiency, warmth, and purpose.

Having grown up in Klamath Falls, she is especially driven by a passion for rural development and the role institutions like Oregon Tech play in shaping strong, sustainable communities.

In her free time, she finds joy in crafting small-batch candles, getting lost in a good book, and hanging out with her dog, Kermit.



### Jacie Wyatt

Annual Giving Manager  
10/7/2024

Development

Jacie Wyatt joins Oregon Tech as the Annual Giving Manager, where she leads efforts to engage donors and strengthen the culture of philanthropy across the university community. Prior to joining Oregon Tech, Jacie worked in product marketing at an education technology startup, driving growth and engagement with members.

At Colorado State University, Jacie earned her degree in Business Administration with an emphasis on Marketing and Computer Information Systems. She is passionate about storytelling, relationship building, and data-driven strategies to inspire giving.

Jacie enjoys exploring all the Pacific Northwest has to offer, from crystal clear lakes to starfish-filled beaches with her dog, Ernest, and partner, Logan, who is pursuing his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at Oregon Tech.



### Lily Tapia

Office Specialist 2  
4/1/2025

Computer Systems Engineering Technology

Liliana Tapia, also known as Lily, recently joined Oregon Tech as an Office Specialist II in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Management. She brings several years of experience in office coordination and supporting leadership from her previous role as an Administrative Assistant at a nonprofit strawberry organization.

With a strong background in scheduling, event planning, and office administration, Lily is passionate about creating organized and welcoming spaces that help others succeed.

Originally from Butte Valley, just over the California-Oregon border, Lily is happy to bring her skills to the Oregon Tech community. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking to waterfalls, reading, cooking, and traveling. She especially loves discovering new trails and cuisines wherever she goes.



### John Timmerman

Machine Operator, Research Assistant  
3/24/2025

OMIC R&D

John Timmerman joined as a Computer Numerical Control Operator/Research Assistant at OMIC R&D. John brings a new perspective to the world of manufacturing. Earning an associate degree in Machine Manufacturing Technology and an Associate of Science from Portland Community College, John brings an analytical and scientific skillset to the world of applied research.

John is new to the manufacturing sector but has a diverse range of prior work experience. From being enlisted in the United States Air Force, working across the west for the park service, and instructing at PCC, John is excited to begin his career with Oregon Tech and the exciting field of applied research. John was raised and resides in Vernonia, Oregon. Having this opportunity locally means a lot. John is excited to put his skillset and interests to the test in the realm of research and development. His hobbies include fishing, hiking, and photography.



### Elizabeth Wells

Instructor  
1/2/2025

Dental Hygiene

Elizabeth Wells was born and raised in Klamath Falls and is a proud alumna of the Oregon Institute of Technology. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene in 2014 and her Master of Science in Allied Health in 2020. Her career in dental hygiene is driven by a deep passion for community health and outreach, particularly in providing care to underserved populations.

Over the past decade, Elizabeth has gained extensive experience working in private practice settings, where she has built strong relationships with patients and contributed to high-quality, patient-centered care. She previously served as a faculty member at Oregon Tech and has recently returned in a full-time faculty role, where she continues to enjoy mentoring and educating future dental professionals.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Elizabeth enjoys hiking, spending time outdoors, and making memories with her family. She is the proud mother of four beautiful children and finds great joy in supporting them and watching them play sports. Her deep roots in Southern Oregon continue to shape her values as a professional and inspire her.

## Welcome to Convocation

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

College Union Crater Lake Complex

7:45-8:30

**President's Welcome Breakfast**

8:30-10:00

**Welcome, Introductions, and Awards**

Welcome Remarks by President and Board of Trustees  
Faculty Promotions  
New Faculty and Staff Introductions  
Faculty and Staff Awards

College Union Auditorium

10:15-11:15

**President's Address**

11:20-12:30

**Keynote**

Jonathan Aberman, CEO and Co-Founder of Hupside

College Union Cafeteria

12:35-1:35

**Lunch**

College Union Auditorium

1:45-2:30

**Advancement, Communications, and Marketing Update**

2:30-3:15

**Financial Update**

3:30-4:00

**NWCCU Accreditation Self Study**

4:00-4:50

**Round Robin Updates**

Government Relations  
Emergency Management  
Inclusion  
Human Resources  
Payroll  
Wellness

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff



### Keerthi Andurki

Visiting Instructor  
1/27/2025

Accounting

Keerthi Andukuri joins Oregon Tech as a Visiting Instructor of Accounting, bringing over five years of combined academic and industry experience in accounting, finance, and financial services. Most recently, she taught at the University of Pikeville as Assistant Professor of Accounting, where she designed innovative undergraduate courses and mentored students in areas such as managerial finance, intermediate accounting, and managerial accounting.

Keerthi holds dual Master of Business Administration degrees: in Accounting from Pittsburg State University, where she was named to the Dean's Honors List and inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies, and in Banking and Financial Services from Andhra University in India. She also earned a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Computers from Andhra University.

Her professional background includes serving as an Accounting Analyst with the City of Pikeville's Downtown Economic Development and as a Reconciliation Accountant with Faith Tax.

In addition to teaching and research, she has contributed to service activities such as the CFA Research Challenge and VITA tax assistance program. Outside of work, she enjoys travelling, cooking, and outdoor activities.



### Dr. Mohsen Arjmand

Assistant Professor  
9/15/2025

Surveying, Geomatics

Dr. Mohsen Arjmand joins Oregon Tech as an Assistant Professor in the Applied Computing and Geomatics Department. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Civil – Geomatics Engineering from Oregon State University, where his research focused on Lidar and Machine Learning for construction and transportation engineering applications. He also holds master's and bachelor's degrees in engineering, along with professional certification as a Land Surveyor-in-Training (LSIT) and Engineer in Training (EIT).

Dr. Arjmand's academic work has focused on automation, construction, and geomatics, and he has served as a reviewer for leading journals such as the American Society of Civil Engineers' Journal of Computing in Civil Engineering, Journal of Surveying Engineering, and Journal of Construction Engineering and Management, as well as Wiley journals. His professional background includes more than a decade of industry experience in quality control and assurance of construction and infrastructure projects, surveying, and construction management across Canada and the United States.

At Oregon Tech, he looks forward to advancing research and teaching in surveying, geomatics, construction, robotics, AI, and digital twin technologies, while also building collaborations with industry and government agencies.

Outside of work, Dr. Arjmand enjoys spending time with his wife and children, exploring the outdoors, and contributing to professional communities in surveying and engineering.



### Jennifer Sherry

Administrative Program Assistant  
1/6/2025

College Union

Jennifer joined Oregon Tech as an Administrative Program Assistant in the College Union. She has 30 years of experience in non-profit administration and youth development. She started the first middle school rainbow alliance in her area and founded the Teen Expo that brought together non-profit organizations, employers, and teens to facilitate more productive and enriching summer breaks for youth.

Jennifer relocated to Klamath Falls from Santa Cruz, where she enjoyed surfing and spending time with her friends and family. In her spare time, she enjoys attending comedy shows, making art, and gathering with friends.



### Dr. Shruti Singh

Assistant Professor  
9/15/2025

Electrical Engineering and Renewable Energy

Dr. Shruti Singh served as a term faculty at Seattle University, teaching courses in Digital Design, Embedded Systems, Microprocessor Systems, Mechatronics, and Power Systems with a focus on hands-on and experiential learning. She also actively advises senior design capstone projects.

Dr. Shruti Singh earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical & Computer Engineering from the University of Denver. Her research explores autonomous systems, renewable energy systems, microgrids, and sustainable engineering education. She has collaborated on projects funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), IEEE Power & Energy Society, Amazon, and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). She is an active member of IEEE, ASEE, and SWE. In addition to her research, Dr. Singh is passionate about mentoring students and preparing them for careers at the intersection of technology and sustainability.



### Dr. Chuankai Song

Postdoctoral Research Associate  
5/23/2025

OMIC R&D

Dr. Chuankai Song is a Research Associate at OMIC R&D with a robust background in additive manufacturing gained during his Doctor of Philosophy studies at Oregon State University. He specialized in Mechanical Engineering, with minors in Materials Science and Industrial Engineering, and has extensively engaged in laser-based additive manufacturing technologies, including Laser Powder Bed Fusion (LPBF) and Laser-Directed Energy Deposition (LDED).

While serving as a Ph.D. Research Assistant at the Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Institute (ATAMI), Dr. Song was actively involved in research projects that significantly enhanced manufacturing efficiencies and material properties. He contributed to developing a hybrid process combining vapor-phase nanoparticle deposition with LPBF to produce tungsten-strengthened stainless steel, achieving a remarkable 16.6% increase in microhardness.

Additionally, he played a key role in improving the structural integrity of Inconel 625 wire and GRCo-42 powder substrates through innovative bimetallic joint formation techniques using LDED. His contributions have led to substantial economic impacts, including a high-volume manufacturing process for stamped heat exchangers that saved \$5.4 million annually and a cost-reduction strategy for microchannel heat exchangers that slashed expenses by up to 78%.

At OMIC R&D, Dr. Song is excited to leverage his expertise in material strengthening mechanisms and microstructure characterization in his research on the mechanical behavior of materials under cyclic loading in wire arc additive manufacturing. His goal is to continue contributing innovative solutions to the field, enhancing both the technology and its applications.



## Dr. Heather Midori Saigo

Instructional Designer  
7/15/2025

Online Learning

Dr. Heather Midori Saigo is an enthusiastic educator with a profound commitment to advancing equity and opportunity in education. She holds a Doctor of Education in Learning Technologies from Pepperdine University, where her research focused on women's persistence in STEM, exploring factors that affect their success. Her academic credentials also include a Master of Science in Environmental Science from Indiana University and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Willamette University, forming a strong foundation for her interdisciplinary approach.

Dr. Saigo's work at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) and Southern Oregon University demonstrates her expertise in classroom instruction, online teaching, and instructional design. At these institutions, she creates dynamic learning environments, blending intellectual rigor with engaging and flexible teaching methods to connect with diverse student populations. This fall, SNHU launches her new course, "Mindset and Growth for Lifelong Learning," enrolling 60,000+ first-year students per year.

A passionate advocate for learning everywhere, Dr. Saigo excels at connecting ideas, people, and resources to cultivate meaningful educational experiences. Her dedication to mentorship and innovation in education has a lasting impact on her students, inspiring the next generation of scholars and leaders. She is thrilled to join Oregon Tech, where she continues to champion curiosity, community, and humanity.



## Chris Santucci

Videographer  
1/17/2025

Marketing, Communications,  
and Public Affairs

Chris Santucci joins Oregon Tech as Videographer, bringing over 30 years of experience in award-winning commercial media production, commercial photography, and filmmaking. Most recently, Chris served as in-house photographer and videographer for Black Clover USA in Utah, while also providing extensive post-production services for Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown, NY.

Chris Santucci holds an Associate of Applied Science in Photography from Villa Maria College in Buffalo, NY, and is a Federal Aviation Administration-permitted commercial drone pilot.

Originally from Buffalo, Chris is stoked to find a home in Southern Oregon and be a crucial part of Oregon Tech's mission. Outside of work, Chris enjoys hiking, motorcycling, and playing chunky guitar riffs.



## Danny Shapiro

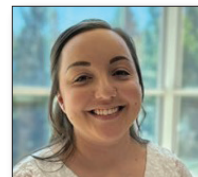
Counselor  
2/10/2025

Integrated Student Health Center

Danny Shapiro joined Oregon Tech in the Winter term as a Counselor at the Integrated Student Health Center. They have three years of experience in Student Affairs and Student Health, having provided direct and group therapeutic services for the University of Georgia's (UGA) Health Center as well as having advocated for students and provided programming from within the lens of UGA's Multicultural Services and Programs in addition to UGA's Pride Center.

Danny earned their Master of Social Work from the University of Georgia and embraces Queer Theory and Feminist theoretical approaches in their clinical practice. They centralize strengths-based, person-centered therapy and utilize Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Narrative Therapy, Internal Family Systems, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, and quite possibly a few others.

Originally from Philadelphia, Danny enjoys metal music, tabletop role-playing games, painting miniature goblins, paddleboarding, and cooking vegan food. Oh, and they love frogs



## Kinsey Babiracki

Coordinator, Peer Tutoring  
and Supplemental Instruction  
1/27/2025

Academic Advising  
and Retention Services

Kinsey Babiracki joins Oregon Tech as the Peer Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction Coordinator. She brings several years of experience fostering inclusive learning environments through roles in teaching, intervention program support, and STEM-focused library services for children.

Kinsey Babiracki has a master's degree in classical studies, which has fueled her lifelong passion for learning and dedication to education. With a background in teaching younger students, she developed a deep appreciation for meeting learners where they are and helping them build confidence in their abilities. Kinsey's classroom experience taught her how to adapt instruction, foster curiosity, and empower students to use their resources to thrive academically.

Kinsey is originally from Seattle and moved to Klamath Falls a year ago. She is happy to be part of empowering student learning at Oregon Tech and excited to boost the tutoring program. Outside of work, she enjoys reading by the lake, playing video games, and spending time with her husband and their dog, Obi.



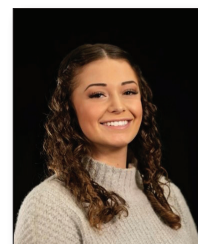
## Lahna Backer-Stiles

Administrative Program Specialist  
10/14/2024

Payroll Services

Lahna Backer-Stiles joins Oregon Tech with over five years of experience in accounting, office management, bookkeeping, and over 20 years in customer service.

In Lahna's free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two kids, going to the coast, traveling, camping, hunting, and fishing.



## Kaylee Barnum

Coordinator  
7/21/2025

Student Involvement and Belonging

Kaylee Barnum recently joined Oregon Tech as a Student Belonging and Involvement Coordinator, where she leads efforts to foster a spirit of service to the Klamath Falls campus and broader Klamath Falls community. While also supporting holistic student engagement through inclusive programming, advising student organizations, and creating events that foster leadership, wellness, and community connection. With a strong background in event planning and student programming, Kaylee is passionate about creating meaningful experiences that connect students to each other and to the university.

Originally from the coast of Washington, Kaylee brings a love for the outdoors and a spirit of adventure to her work. She also enjoys cooking, anything sports-related, and spending time with friends and family. With a Bachelor of Science in Sport Management and a Master of Science in Business from Linfield University, she developed a deep appreciation for leadership, collaboration, and service in higher education.

Kaylee is excited to continue building inclusive programs that celebrate our differences, encourage involvement, and strengthen the sense of belonging at Oregon Tech.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff



### Pramiti Barua

Instructor  
7/1/2024

Computer Engineering Technology

Pramiti Barua joins Oregon Tech as a full-time Instructor in the Computer Systems Engineering Technology department. She brings extensive experience teaching computer science at both community college and university levels. Most recently, she served as an adjunct instructor at Portland Community College, where she taught courses in C/C++, Python, and Algorithms, emphasizing hands-on learning and practical, industry-relevant skills.

Pramiti holds a master's degree in computer science from Bowling Green State University, Ohio, and has completed advanced coursework in software development and machine learning. Before transitioning to academia, she worked in the tech industry as a mobile app developer, contributing to the design and development of industry-facing applications. Her combined academic and professional background enables her to bridge the gap between theoretical foundations and real-world application, equipping students with the tools they need for successful careers in technology.

Outside the classroom, Pramiti is dedicated to supporting first-generation college students and is actively involved in mentoring and outreach programs that promote diversity in STEM. In her free time, she enjoys hiking the scenic trails of the Pacific Northwest. She is thrilled to join the Oregon Tech community and looks forward to contributing to its strong, applied learning environment.



### Jessamyn Birrer

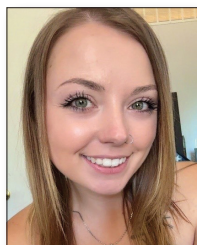
Visiting Instructor  
9/15/2025

Communication Studies

Jessamyn Birrer has been teaching writing and public speaking part-time for Oregon Tech's Communication Department since 2006 and full-time as a Visiting Instructor since 2023. They are excited to return as a Visiting Instructor again this year.

Jessamyn graduated from the University of Idaho with a Master of Fine Arts degree in poetry and poetics. They have been teaching Rhetoric, Composition, Technical Writing, Poetry, and Cultural Studies at various colleges and universities in the Pacific Northwest for over 25 years. They have also served as the Communication department's faculty liaison and curriculum designer for Oregon Tech's sponsored dual-credit writing and speech programs since 2022.

In addition to their work as a college writing instructor, they have worked as a copyeditor, a technical writer, a poetry editor, and a consultant on autism and neurodiversity in family and classroom systems. They are also a working and published poet and photographer. Research interests include queer poetics, composition theory, and liberation pedagogy. Their life interests include fiber arts, game theory and game design, birding, and their family.



### Tisha Bray

Office Specialist 2  
12/4/2024

College of Engineering,  
Technology, and Management

Tisha Bray joined Oregon Tech as an Office Manager for Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Technology, Electrical Engineering and Renewable Energy, and the Oregon Renewable Energy Center. She brings with her a robust background in customer service, operations management, banking, personal training, and quality assurance.

Tisha was born in Klamath Falls and lives in the Bonanza area with her partner of six years, her stepson, her blue heeler, River, and her old cat, Whiskey. She loves gaming, weightlifting, cooking, paddleboarding, reading, photography, and being out in nature—particularly the Oregon Coast.

Tisha will be attending Oregon State University this fall to get her bachelor's degree in computer science with a focus on software and game programming.

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff



### Dr. Gary Preston

Academic Advisor and  
Retention Coordinator  
10/11/2024

Advising and  
Retention Services

Dr. Gary Preston is the new Academic Advisor and Retention Coordinator for the College of Engineering, Technology, and Management. Gary comes to Oregon Tech from West Virginia University (WVU) where he served as a professional academic advisor. Prior to WVU, he taught and advised exercise physiology students at the University of North Georgia for 30 years; he retired in 2020.

Dr. Preston grew up in Birmingham, AL, attended a community college, completed a bachelor's and master's at Auburn University, and completed his doctorate at Middle Tennessee State University. He is married to Michelle Preston, has two grown children, and one granddaughter. His hobbies are weightlifting, hiking, and reading.



### Laura Reid

Administrative Program Specialist,  
Humanities and Social Sciences

ABA Clinic

12/2/2024

Laura Reid recently rejoined Oregon Tech as a part-time Administrative Program Specialist at the BRIDGE ABA Clinic. Laura has worked at Oregon Tech before in Student Services and is excited to be involved with the campus community again. Laura brings many years of experience working in higher education, health care, and office management.

Laura holds a master's degree in academic advising and a bachelor's in applied psychology from Oregon Tech. She is excited to create a welcoming and efficient environment for the staff, students, and community that the ABA clinic serves.

Originally from Bonanza, Laura is a long-time resident of the Klamath Basin and enjoys gardening, hiking, animals, and spending time with family.



### Heather Robinson

Administrative Director  
6/2/2025

Integrated Student Health Center

Heather Robinson recently joined Oregon Tech as the Administrative Director of the Integrated Student Health Center. She brings over 15 years of experience in behavioral health, higher education, and healthcare administration. Most recently, Heather served as Director of Behavioral Health for a local coordinated care organization, where she led clinical operations and oversaw compliance and risk for in-network providers.

Heather earned her Master of Science in Clinical Psychology from the University of Alaska Anchorage, where she also provided therapy and taught in the psychology and human services department. She has served as adjunct faculty in Oregon Tech's Marriage and Family Therapy master's program and is excited to integrate her leadership, clinical, and teaching experience in her new role.

Originally from Alaska, Heather enjoys restoring vintage and antique furniture and rockhounding. She has two grown children: Devin, a cryptologic linguist in the U.S. Army stationed in South Korea, and Brooklyn, a senior at Boise State preparing for dental school.



## Jacelynn Pelto

Custodian  
12/2/2024

Facilities Services

Jacelynn Pelto joins Oregon Tech as a Custodian in Facilities Services. With previous experience in custodial work, and strong skills in maintaining safe, clean, and welcoming environments. Jacelynn is dedicated to supporting students, staff, and faculty through behind-the-scenes care that keeps campus running smoothly.

Passionate about creating orderly and comfortable spaces, Jacelynn brings reliability and attention to detail to every task. She is excited to be part of Oregon Tech's community and contribute to a positive daily experience for everyone on campus. Born and raised in Southern Oregon, Jacelynn enjoys writing, photography, caring for her cats, and spending time with family and friends.



## Greg Pierson

Coordinator  
7/21/2025

Student Involvement & Belonging

Greg Pierson serves as one of the Student Involvement and Belonging Coordinators at Oregon Tech. He joined the team after relocating from Fort Collins, Colorado, and is excited to be part of the vibrant Oregon Tech community.

Greg's professional journey has spanned the trades, public education, corporate training, and student affairs. While his path has been anything but linear, a clear thread runs through it all: a deep commitment to helping others grow, feel valued, and find joy in the process. He sees his role as a catalyst for connection, engagement, and a touch of positive disruption—in the best ways possible.



## Ursula Pike

Director of Sponsored Projects  
and Grants Administration  
7/7/2025

Grants and Sponsored Research

Ursula Pike brings over a decade of experience in grant development, compliance, and grant management, most recently serving as the Executive Director of Grant Development and Compliance at Austin Community College in Austin, Texas.

Ursula holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Portland State University, a Master of Arts in Economics from Western Illinois University, and a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Community Economic Development. She also earned a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. Originally from northern California, Ursula is a member of the Karuk Tribe. Outside of work, she enjoys attending powwows, watching movies, and volunteering at her local library.



## Tarun Preetham Bulla

Instructor of Cybersecurity  
11/4/2024

Business Management

Tarun Preetham Bulla joins Oregon Tech as an Instructor of Cybersecurity, bringing years of industry experience in incident response, vulnerability management, and digital forensics. He has held roles at Sagitec Solutions, Accenture, and Cognizant, where he worked on threat detection, endpoint protection, and cloud security. He holds a Master of Science in Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity from the University at Albany, SUNY, and a Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics and Telecommunications.

At Oregon Tech, Tarun is focused on building hands-on, applied learning experiences through redesigned courses, immersive lab simulations, and capstone project supervision. He also leads the Cyber Club.

Outside of work, Tarun enjoys playing badminton and soccer and is always open to learning new skills. He is currently exploring horse riding and skiing as part of his personal growth journey. He is passionate about student mentorship, community engagement, and advancing cybersecurity education.



## Ryan Brosterhous

Associate Director, Campus Safety  
and Emergency Preparedness  
9/2/2025

Resilience, Emergency  
Management, and Safety

Ryan Brosterhous grew up in Klamath Falls and attended Oregon Tech before graduating from Southern Oregon State College with a Bachelor of Science in Criminology.

Ryan has over 26 years of experience in public safety, serving with the Klamath Falls Police Department as an officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. He is also a graduate of the 273rd Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA, and the Southern Police Institute in Louisville, KY. Ryan has always enjoyed the aspect of teamwork and a shared vision to achieve a common goal.

He enjoys spending his free time with his wife, Chelsea, his two sons, Cole and Kellan, and his dog, Lulu.



## Dr. Amanda Chastain

Assistant Professor of ABA  
6/15/2025

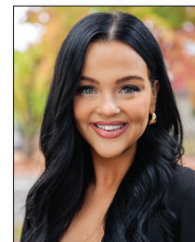
Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr. Amanda Chastain is an Assistant Professor of Applied Behavior Analysis in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Oregon Tech. She has worked with individuals with developmental disabilities since 2011, became a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) in 2018, and is currently a Licensed Behavior Analyst in Oregon.

She earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Sciences and a Certificate in Disability Ethics at the University of Illinois Chicago under the co-supervision of Dr. Mark Dixon and Dr. Tamar Heller. She holds both a master's and bachelor's degree from California State University, Sacramento, where she specialized in verbal behavior, stimulus equivalence, and intraverbal bi-directional naming under the supervision of Dr. Caio Miguel.

After obtaining her BCBA, she served as a Senior Research Associate at the University of Southern California, where she received training in Relational Frame Theory and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy under the mentorship of Dr. Jonathan Tarbox.

Her primary interests include derived relational responding, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy in ABA, and applications of behavior analysis to large-scale social issues. She is committed to teaching behavior analysts how to use ABA as a disability support that utilizes neurodiversity-affirming, client-centered, and evidence-based approaches. She also enjoys nature, music, and traveling.



## Molly Covey

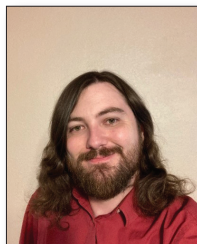
Leadership Gift Officer, SSUI  
4/1/2025

Development  
Portland-Metro Campus

Molly Covey joins the Oregon Tech Foundation Team as a Leadership Gift Officer of Student Success and University Initiatives. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Marketing and Communications from Western Oregon University. Before joining Oregon Tech, Molly served as the Marketing Director for an estate planning law firm that supported clients throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Originally from the Willamette Valley, Molly has a deep passion for higher education and the transformative impact it can have on students' lives. Molly is excited to be a part of a community that empowers students to reach their goals, and she is proud to support Oregon Tech's mission to provide hands-on and career-focused education that prepares students to contribute to their communities and drive innovation across Oregon and beyond.

In her free time, Molly enjoys spending time with her friends and family, exploring new hiking spots, and coaching volleyball.



## Dustin DeWitt

Office Specialist 2  
2/3/2025

Civil Engineering and Applied  
Computing and Geomatics

Dustin DeWitt recently joined Oregon Tech as the Office Manager for Civil Engineering and Applied Computing and Geomatics. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Davis, and brings professional experience in administrative support, compliance, customer service, and academic assistance.

Over the years, Dustin has worked in roles including mentoring, tutoring, library support, substitute teaching, and regulatory compliance—developing a versatile skill set in organization, communication, and problem-solving. At Oregon Tech, he's excited to support faculty and departmental operations with a focus on efficiency, attention to detail, and collaboration.

Originally from Northern California, Dustin is a self-proclaimed nerd who enjoys history, current events, board games, tabletop role-playing games, video games, and exploring the worlds of science fiction and fantasy.



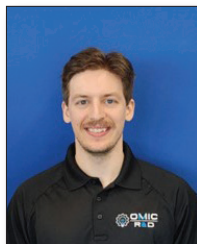
## Dr. Shawn Duan

Department Chair Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering Technology  
8/31/2025

Dr. Shawn Duan previously served as Professor and Chair in Mechanical Engineering in the Hal and Inge Marcus School of Engineering at Saint Martin's University in Lacey, Washington. Before that role, he held a series of academic appointments at South Dakota State University in the Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering, where he served as Professor, Program Coordinator, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

In addition to his academic leadership, Dr. Duan has industry experience as a Senior Software Engineer with Autodesk, Inc. in Novi, Michigan. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.

Dr. Duan currently serves as International Editor of the Journal of Hydromechanics Engineering and as an Associate Editor of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) BioNano Series. His professional memberships include the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the American Scientific Research Society Sigma Xi, the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), and the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE).



## Dr. Devyn Duryea

Postdoctoral Research Assistant  
2/28/2025

OMIC R&D

Dr. Devyn Duryea is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at OMIC R&D who brings expertise in optics and photonics, with research experience in laser manufacturing.

During his doctoral studies at Oregon State University, Dr. Duryea worked in a laser manufacturing laboratory, using ultrafast lasers to create nanoparticle and two-dimensional nanomaterial colloids, with research aimed at developing inks for printed electronics. Contributions include two first-author publications and three conference papers.

Outside of research, Dr. Duryea enjoys skiing and snowboarding and is looking forward to experiencing Oregon's slopes.



## Dr. Brett Oppegaard

Visiting Instructor  
9/16/2025

Communication Studies

Dr. Brett Oppegaard joins Oregon Tech as a Visiting Instructor in the Communication Department. He also is a Professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH). Dr. Oppegaard researches media-production processes, including compositional practices, as well as writing products, at intersections of Disability Studies, Journalism, Generative AI (GenAI), Interaction Design, and Digital Inequalities. He teaches about writing and multimedia production, media accessibility, and media literacy.

Before his tenure at UH, he founded the Communication minor, which included media writing classes, at Washington State University Vancouver, becoming the first Communication faculty member on that branch campus. His research has been supported by the U.S. National Park Service, the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities, the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts, and Google, among others. His work has been honored nationally and internationally with awards from such organizations as the American Council of the Blind, the American Alliance of Museums, the European Heritage Association, Helen Keller National Center, the U.S. National Park Service, among others.



## Marian Packer

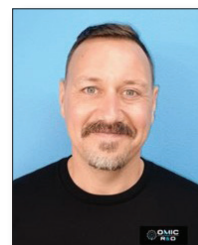
Assistant Professor  
9/16/2025

Medical Imaging Technology

Marian Packer is an Assistant Professor and Clinical Coordinator in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at Oregon Institute of Technology. An Oregon Tech alumna, she graduated in 2014 with a degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography and brings over a decade of clinical experience in abdominal, obstetric, and vascular imaging.

She holds a Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction and is dedicated to advancing student success through high-quality instruction and clinical mentorship. In her role, Marian oversees externship placements, supports curriculum development, and works closely with students to prepare them for excellence in both patient care and professional practice.

Outside of her academic work, Marian enjoys spending time with her husband and three young children. Together, they enjoy camping, hiking, biking, and exploring the outdoors. Marian is also an avid reader and values time spent connecting with her local community.



## Nick Patton

Facilities Associate  
8/4/2025

OMIC R&D

Nick Patton joins Oregon Tech as a Facilities Associate at OMIC R&D. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration from Columbus College of Art and Design in 2005 and a Master of Fine Arts in Visual Studies from Pacific Northwest College of Art in 2015.

Nick worked as the manager of the sculpture facilities at Pacific Northwest College of Art from 2015 to 2022. During that time, Nick and his wife, Jenna, formed Tumblewheel Studios, a 501c3 nonprofit organization focusing on arts education. Through Tumblewheel Studios, Nick and Jenna have brought free arts education and community art projects to rural communities throughout Oregon and Montana. Nick has taught at Willamette University, Montana State University Billings, and Rocky Mountain College, but is happy to have found a real job.

Nick is excited to be back in Oregon with his family, where he can enjoy the scenic beauty of the Pacific Northwest, enjoy the world-class pinot noirs of the Willamette Valley, and work in a one-of-a-kind facility at OMIC R&D. When he is not working, Nick caters to the whims of his 4-year-old lord and master, Roland.



## Malini Nagasundaram

Instructor, Information Technology  
9/16/2025

Business Management  
Portland-Metro Campus

Malini Nagasundaram joins Oregon Tech as an Instructor in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Management. She brings over four years of industry experience as a software developer, along with prior teaching experience as an Instructor at Indiana State University.

Malini holds a master's degree in computer science with a specialization in Artificial Intelligence. Her academic and professional journey reflects a strong passion for integrating technology with education and preparing students for careers in computing and emerging technologies.

She is excited to begin her role at the Portland-Metro campus this fall and looks forward to contributing to student learning and success. Outside of work, Malini enjoys cooking, traveling to new places, and dancing, which allow her to explore creativity and connect with diverse cultures.



## Manish Nalluri

Visiting Instructor  
1/15/2025

Cybersecurity

Manish Nalluri brings over six years of combined experience across industry and academia focusing on application security, identity and access management, penetration testing, and enterprise IT infrastructure. Before joining Oregon Tech, he served as an IT Assistant and also as a Teaching Assistant at George Mason University, where he managed IT systems, supported cybersecurity risk assessment, and mentored students on research and security projects. He also worked with Fortune 500 companies as an Application Security Engineer and as a Cybersecurity Analyst, specializing in security audits, vulnerability assessments, and incident response.

Manish earned a master's degree in Information Security and Assurance from George Mason University, where he concentrated in Applied Cybersecurity. He also holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University in India. His academic work includes research on cloud security breaches, zero-day vulnerabilities, and national cybersecurity policies, as well as projects on anomaly detection and secure mobile applications.

He is a Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), EC-Council Certified Security Analyst (ECSA), Certified SOC Analyst, AWS Solution Architect and CompTIA Security+ certified, among other industry credentials. His professional interests include penetration testing, access management, cloud security, and emerging cybersecurity threats. Outside of work, Manish enjoys exploring outdoor activities, mentoring students, and exploring new technologies.



## Shane O'Brien

Associate Director,  
Government & Community Relations  
1/15/2025

President's Office

Shane O'Brien has more than a decade of experience in Oregon politics, policy, and campaigns. He's managed high-profile congressional and state races and held senior roles in the legislature, including serving as Chief of Staff for a member of the Oregon State Senate. Shane brings a strategic, hands-on approach to advancing policy, building coalitions, and navigating complex legislative issues.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Portland State University and an Associate of Occupational Studies in Patisserie and Baking from Western Culinary Institute, an early pursuit that still influences his creative side.

Outside of work, Shane is always looking for new experiences, whether traveling, kayaking, hiking Pacific Northwest trails, or exploring the local food scene. That same curiosity and appreciation for connection also shape his approach to building trusted relationships that bring people and institutions closer together.



## David Eames

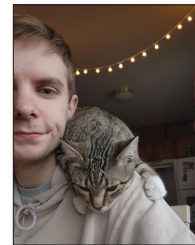
Associate MSR Additive  
10/28/2024

OMIC R&D

Dave Eames is an Associate Manufacturing Solutions Researcher specializing in additive manufacturing and metrological inspection at OMIC R&D. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Portland State University and an Associate of Science in Baking and Restaurant Management from the Oregon Culinary Institute.

Before joining the world of advanced manufacturing, Dave served for six years as a Nuclear Electrician aboard the fast attack submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762). Following his military service, he pursued a creative path in the culinary arts, working his way from bartender and line cook to Director of Manufacturing for a national ice cream brand. This background has shaped Dave's hands-on, inventive approach to research and development.

Outside of work, Dave is a proud father of two and husband to, in his words, "the most incredible person I have ever known." He is an avid hand tool woodworker, with a personal mission to replace every piece of store-bought furniture in his home with handcrafted items of his own design.



## Keegan Emerson

Graphic Designer  
3/3/2025

Marketing, Communications,  
and Public Affairs

Keegan Emerson is the new Graphic Designer in Marketing, Communications, and Public Affairs. They graduated from the University of Idaho in Moscow with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2021 and worked as the in-house designer for a local manufacturing company called Holstery in the area for several years.

Keegan spends much of their time hanging out with their cat Houdini and playing games. Houdini is currently being harness trained to join Keegan on hikes and photography adventures in the area.



## Noah Etchemendy

Information Technology Consultant 2  
8/11/2025

Information Technology Services

Noah Etchemendy is a recent graduate of Oregon Tech who worked with the Information Technology Services Department while a student, wearing many hats as a technician. Noah helps maintain the public-facing site, the knowledge base, and various other services behind the scenes.

Noah enjoys coding and robotics hobbies, along with spending time with their partner and a cat, Eevee. Noah looks forward to continuing to serve the Oregon Tech community for many years to come.



## Dr. Andrea Fink-Armold

Assistant Professor  
9/15/2025

Psychology

Andrea Fink-Armold holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Psychological and Brain Sciences and a Master of Arts in Experimental Psychology. Prior to joining Oregon Tech, she taught at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she also conducted and published research on social perception, stereotypes, and intergroup behavior. Her projects have explored perceptions of human-robot interactions, the impact of disease threats on prejudice, and how gender stereotypes manifest in different subcultures.

Dr. Fink-Armold's teaching emphasizes real-world application, respectful dialogue, and student autonomy, helping learners connect psychological concepts to their own lives and communities while fostering curiosity and civic engagement. She views research as a collaborative tool for meaningful change and mentors students as active partners in research projects. In her new role at Oregon Tech, Dr. Fink-Armold looks forward to pursuing interdisciplinary collaborations and to building community relationships to create meaningful projects with direct impact on students and local communities.

Originally from Southern California, Dr. Fink-Armold is excited to explore Klamath Falls and nearby areas. Outside of teaching and doing research, she enjoys spending time with her family (both human and animal), hiking, cooking, and traveling.



## J. Tekulve Flower de Jackson-Vann

Visiting Instructor  
9/16/2025

Marriage and Family Therapy

Tekulve Flower de Jackson-Vann joins Oregon Tech as a Visiting Instructor of Marriage and Family Therapy in the College of Health, Arts, and Sciences. He holds a Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy from Valdosta State University. He is a current Doctor of Behavioral Health Candidate in Arizona State University's College of Health Solutions, where his research focuses on the experiences of transgender and non-binary patients in primary care, particularly those patients who were assigned female at birth who desire to experience pregnancy and childbirth. Prior to joining Oregon Tech, Tekulve was the Chief Clinical Officer of Two Brothas Counseling in Orem, Utah. He also previously taught in the Sociology Department at Salt Lake Community College. He is an AAMFT Clinical Fellow and AAMFT Approved Supervisor and holds licenses to practice in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, South Carolina, and Utah.

As a passionate clinician-educator, Tekulve seeks to leverage his nearly twenty years of clinical experience and lived experience as a Queer Person of Color to provide students with an educational experience that will prepare them to be confident, competent clinicians in an increasingly diverse world. His current project explores ways to reduce barriers to cervical cancer screenings among transgender and non-binary patients who were assigned female at birth.

Originally from Milledgeville, Georgia, Tekulve has lived in the Mountain West for the past twenty years and is excited to make Oregon Tech and the Pacific Northwest his new home. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, baking, exploring the local food scene, and promoting mental health among underserved communities.



## Ethan Foore

Director of Marketing  
10/7/2024

Marketing, Communications,  
and Public Affairs

Ethan Foore brings over five years of digital marketing experience to Oregon Tech, specializing in strategic communications and brand development. He holds a Master of Letters in Philosophy from the University of Dundee, where he focused on contemporary philosophical theory.

Prior to joining Oregon Tech, Ethan worked in marketing and communications roles across various industries, developing expertise in digital strategy, content creation, and campaign management. His academic background in philosophy informs his analytical approach to marketing challenges and audience engagement.

Outside of work, Ethan enjoys outdoor activities, including hiking and camping. He maintains an interest in contemporary philosophy, creative writing, and physical fitness. Ethan is committed to advancing Oregon Tech's mission through innovative marketing strategies and community engagement.



## Matt Fowler

Assistant Professor and  
Director of Clinical Education  
11/1/2024

Respiratory Care

Matt Fowler is the new Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Education for the Respiratory Care program, alongside Program Director Lauren Nielsen. Matt holds a Master of Business Administration and is a Registered Cardiopulmonary and Registered Respiratory Therapist. Matt has been a respiratory therapist for eleven years and spent most of those years in Arizona. Matt enjoys exploring Oregon and attending almost any event.



## Erin Martin

Career Advisor  
4/1/2025

Career Services  
Portland-Metro Campus

Erin Martin joined Oregon Tech as a Career Advisor on the Portland-Metro campus. She completed a Master of Science in College Student Personnel at Western Illinois University in 2021, where she also worked as an Undergraduate Admissions Counselor and served as a House Director for the Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority. Before Oregon Tech, Erin advised pre-nursing and nursing students at Linfield University, guiding them through the application process and towards successful degree completion.

With a strong background in student services, Erin is passionate about fostering an inclusive campus environment and equipping students for career success. She is excited to deliver proactive career programming that supports job and internship placement for Oregon Tech students.

Outside of work, Erin enjoys playing fetch with her dog, Benny, baking sweet treats, and catching the latest A24 films.



## Emily McCadden

Provisional Instructor  
1/2/2025

Dental Hygiene

Emily McCadden graduated in 2020 from Oregon Tech's Klamath Falls campus with a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene. She is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Allied Health with a focus on Healthcare Management. Prior to joining Oregon Tech, Emily worked in private, corporate, and public health clinics throughout Oregon. Emily had been working as a clinical and restorative dental hygienist in La Grande prior to relocating to Klamath Falls. Her dental career began at the age of eighteen as a front office coordinator in a small private dental office, and she has been passionate about dentistry ever since.

Emily teaches both didactic and clinical courses. With over ten years of experience in the dental field, Emily brings a well-rounded perspective to her teaching, blending real-world practice with a strong commitment to student development and patient-centered care.

Originally from Houston, Texas, Emily has one brother and now enjoys life in Oregon with her husband and two sons, Waylon and Cash. In her free time, she enjoys running, hiking, traveling, and watching sports with her family.



## Dana Miller

Director of Facilities Management  
Services and Capital Planning  
9/2/2025

Facilities Services

Dana Miller is originally from Bellevue, Pennsylvania, and grew up in the rural area of Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania. Today, he proudly calls the City of Klamath Falls his home. As the third of four brothers and a father to three wonderful daughters, family has always been a central part of his life. During his high school years, he was actively involved in sports, which helped shape his teamwork and leadership skills. His passion for community service led him to engage in local activities and organizations, taking on leadership roles.

He earned a degree in refrigeration, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and solar, and later became a Sheet Metal Journeyman. After 15 years in the skilled building trades, he started a successful mechanical contracting business and installed and serviced geothermal systems. Selling the business, he transitioned into a career focused on supervising, managing, and directing maintenance operations in K-12 education, leading to the role of directing maintenance operations for a 48-acre urban university campus in Pittsburgh.

He then followed the love of his life to Oregon, where, as the Director of Facilities for a hospital network, he successfully oversaw the construction and opening of the state's first free-standing emergency room. His path next led him to Oxnard, California, serving as Director of Facilities for the school district. He has returned to southern Oregon, where he will continue to apply his extensive experience in facilities management and capital planning to support the Oregon Tech mission and serve the community.



## Tabitha Knight

Academic Advisor  
11/12/2024

Advising and Retention Services

Tabitha Knight joins Oregon Tech as an Academic Advisor for first-year students in the College of Health, Arts, and Sciences. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hiking, and spending time with her cats.



## Dr. Na-hyeon (Hannah) Ko

Assistant Professor  
6/2/2025

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Dr. Na-hyeon (Hannah) Ko joins Oregon Tech as an Assistant Professor in the DPT program within the College of Health, Arts, and Sciences. Dr. Ko earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Biokinesiology from the University of Southern California, a Master of Arts in Motor Learning and Control from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a post-professional Doctor of Physical Therapy from A.T. Still University. Prior to Oregon Tech, Dr. Ko was a tenured Associate Professor at California State University, where she taught and conducted research for seven years.

As a Board-Certified Pediatric Clinical Specialist with over 15 years of experience, Dr. Ko has practiced in preschools, school districts, outpatient clinics, and home health settings across New York and California. Her research investigates the neurophysiological mechanisms of motor control and neuroplasticity, using non-invasive brain stimulation techniques such as transcranial magnetic stimulation to explore the brain's role in movement in both healthy and clinical populations. Dr. Ko is also dedicated to improving access to pediatric physical therapy services in rural and underserved areas.

Originally from South Korea, Dr. Ko has lived in cities including Seattle, New York City, and Los Angeles. She holds a barista certificate and enjoys hiking, playing the piano, and riding an electric bike.



## Suzanne Kunse

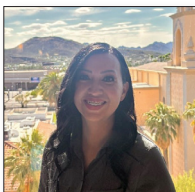
Associate Vice President  
Government and Community Relations  
1/15/2025

President's Office

Suzanne Kunse has more than 25 years of experience in legislative strategy, constituent engagement, and office leadership at both the state and federal levels.

Previously, Suzanne served as Chief of Staff to State Representative Daniel Nguyen, Deputy Chief of Staff for U.S. Congresswoman Andrea Salinas, and over two decades as District Director for U.S. Congressman Kurt Schrader and U.S. Congresswoman Darlene Hooley.

Suzanne grew up in Michigan and is an avid Detroit Tigers fan. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and taking in all Oregon has to offer.



## Anna Malone

Regulatory Compliance Specialist  
9/2/2025

Diversity, Inclusions,  
and Cultural Engagement

Anna Malone is originally from Fresno, California, but relocated to Klamath Falls about twelve years ago. Anna is an Oregon Tech alumna with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology. Anna has returned to Oregon Tech as the Regulatory Compliance Specialist.

Anna brings more than ten years of Human Resources experience, as well as advocacy work alongside multiple community partners. In free time, Anna is a coffee enthusiast, a beginner gardener, a soccer parent, and enjoys travel and photography.



## Dr. Marisa Fox

Clinical Dentist  
1/6/2025

Dental Hygiene

Dr. Marisa Fox graduated from Oregon Health and Science University School of Dentistry in 2011 then returned to her hometown to establish her dental practice in Klamath Falls. She now divides her professional time between her practice and Oregon Tech's Dental Hygiene program, where she enjoys getting to meet new patients and influence promising young students as they launch into their careers.

Dr. Fox is married and has a daughter and two sons. In their downtime, they especially love going to Lake Shasta as a family and taking out their vintage standup jet skis and googly-eyed ski boat. You can often see them riding knee boards or water skis three at a time or slinging grandma around the lake on a bouncing tube.

Helping patients understand their varied treatment options and overcome their dental anxiety are some of the more rewarding things Dr. Fox enjoys doing at work. Dr. Fox is excited to be part of the team at Oregon Tech as they seek to expand their educational opportunities in the field of dentistry.



## Dr. Phil Geng

Associate Professor  
2/28/2025

Manufacturing and Mechanical  
Engineering Technology

Dr. Phil Geng joined the College of Engineering, Technology, and Management at Oregon Tech as an Associate Professor in Manufacturing, Mechanical Engineering, and Technology. He earned his Doctor of Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was awarded a National Science Foundation fellowship that supported his postdoctoral research in microelectronics and bioengineering.

Dr. Geng brings 28 years of industry experience from Hewlett-Packard and Intel, where he contributed to advancements in printer technologies and computer systems. In recognition of his professional contributions, he was elected a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) in 2016.

He teaches Mechanical Engineering courses and brings real-world industry experience into the classroom. Deeply passionate about teaching and student engagement, Dr. Geng is excited and grateful to pursue his calling in education and mentorship at Oregon Tech.



## Prashant Gokhale

Leadership Gift Officer  
3/10/2025

Development

Prashant Gokhale recently joined the Oregon Tech Foundation as the Leadership Gift Officer for the College of Health, Arts, and Sciences. In this role, he focuses on building meaningful relationships with alumni, donors, and community partners to advance Oregon Tech's mission and support students across a wide range of disciplines.

Prashant earned his Executive Master of Business Administration from California State University, San Bernardino, and brings a unique blend of global perspective and local commitment to his work. His professional background includes experience in fundraising strategy, donor engagement, campaign development, and high-touch relationship building.

Before joining Oregon Tech, Prashant contributed to nonprofit and higher education organizations where he led successful fundraising initiatives and community engagement efforts. His passion lies in connecting people to purpose, and he's especially driven by stories of student success and transformative giving.

Outside of work, Prashant is a passionate traveler and hiker and enjoys photography. He also volunteers his time supporting community events and mentoring young professionals exploring careers in advancement and philanthropy.



## Dr. Praveen Kumar Guraja

Assistant Professor  
9/15/2025

Cybersecurity

Dr. Praveen Kumar Guraja joins Oregon Tech as an Assistant Professor of Cybersecurity. He has over fifteen years of combined experience in academia and industry, focusing on cybersecurity, information technology management, and leadership in higher education. Before joining Oregon Tech, he served as Division Chair and Founding Program Coordinator of Information Technology Management at the University of Pikeville, where he launched undergraduate and graduate programs, developed an Artificial Intelligence curriculum, and mentored students to national-level recognition.

Dr. Guraja earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Technology Management from Indiana State University, where his research analyzed state budget cuts' effects on U.S. public universities using machine learning techniques. He also earned a Master of Science in Technology from Pittsburg State University and a Bachelor of Commerce in Business Administration from Acharya Nagarjuna University in India. Alongside his academic roles, he has worked at Fortune 500 companies and higher education institutions as a Systems Administrator, Senior Technical Analyst, and Technical Associate, gaining hands-on expertise in IT operations, networking, and systems security.

He is a Certified Ethical Hacker, an IBM IT Project Manager certified, and a Google AI Essentials certified, among other industry certifications. His research explores AI, cybersecurity, emerging technologies, and data analytics. Outside of work, Praveen enjoys mentoring students, supporting community initiatives, and exploring the outdoors through hiking and travel.



## Katie Harman Ebner

Communications Specialist for  
Executive & Strategic Communications  
7/7/2025

Marketing, Communications  
and Public Affairs

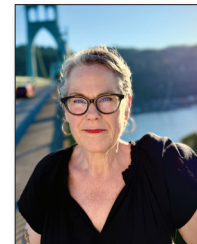
Katie Harman Ebner supports the Office of the President and University Advancement through messaging, speechwriting, and strategic initiatives that reflect the university's mission to deliver hands-on, innovative education.

Katie brings over 20 years of experience in communication strategy, public engagement, and the performing arts. Crowned Miss America 2002, she earned national recognition for her advocacy and service during and immediately following 9/11. She has since built a diverse career across stage and screen, including appearances with Boston Pops, LA Philharmonic at Hollywood Bowl, National Opera Association, Prague Summer Nights Festival, Pink Martini, 54 Below, HBO, A&E, and many more.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies from Portland State University and a Master of Music in Performance from Southern Oregon University. Katie is also the founder of Virtuosa Society, a nonprofit nurturing creative women through connection, edification, and financial support.

An active volunteer, she currently serves on the Oregon Community Foundation's Southern Oregon Leadership Council, the Sky Lakes Cancer Advisory Committee, and the Board of Directors for Stumptown Stages.

Originally from Portland, Katie has resided in Klamath Falls with her husband and two children since 2005. She enjoys hiking, historical biographies, and antique shopping.



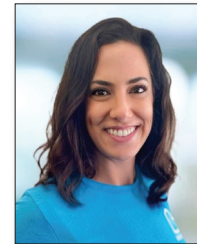
## Loree Hyde

Director  
7/28/2025

Library  
Portland-Metro Campus

Loree Hyde is the new Director of the Portland-Metro Campus Library at Oregon Tech. She holds a master's degree in library and information sciences and brings extensive experience in academic and health sciences librarianship. Her background includes instruction, research support, and electronic resources management. Portland-Metro was Loree's first professional position as a newly minted librarian, and she is excited to return to a vibrant campus with an active student community. She also serves as Oregon Tech's point person for open educational resources (OER) and is an advocate for open education, committed to advancing access and affordability for students.

Originally from a small town in Eastern Washington, Loree enjoys living in Portland and spending her free time gardening, cooking, traveling, boating, and seeing live music.



## Dr. Ashley Iliff

Director of Clinical Education  
and Assistant Professor  
1/2/2025

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Dr. Ashley Iliff brings a wealth of experience to her role as Director of Clinical Education at Oregon Tech/OHSU. Before establishing her full-time residence in Klamath Falls, Dr. Iliff worked as a traveling physical therapist across six states, gaining invaluable insights into diverse clinical practices.

Outside of her professional commitments, she is passionate about travel and exploration. She enjoys hiking, mountain biking, surfing, and singing, often seeking new adventures that inspire her both personally and professionally. Her diverse experiences and enthusiasm for teaching empower her to cultivate a dynamic learning environment for students in the field of physical therapy.



## Pablo Jimenez-Arenas

Machine Operator, Research Assistant  
2/17/2025

OMIC R&D

Pablo Jimenez-Arenas joined OMIC R&D as a Computer Numerical Control Operator and Research Assistant. A Scappoose native, Pablo first discovered his passion for advanced manufacturing just across the street at the OMIC Portland Community College Training Center, where he began his career and continues to teach today. His dual role as both practitioner and educator reflects his commitment to helping strengthen the local workforce while contributing directly to cutting-edge research and development projects at OMIC R&D.



## Anwen Jones

Academic Advising  
and Retention Coordinator  
4/16/2025

Advising and Retention Services  
Portland-Metro Campus

Anwen Jones joined Oregon Tech in April as an academic advisor and retention coordinator on the Portland-Metro Campus. She has a background in education as a college admissions mentor, writing and English Language Arts tutor, and a teacher for students across the age spectrum.

Anwen Jones holds a master's degree in Rhetoric and Composition from Florida State University, where she taught first-year writing, tutored in the Reading-Writing Center and Digital Studio, and served as a graduate student administrator of the Digital Studio. She is passionate about justice-oriented education and increasing access to higher education for students from marginalized communities. In particular, Anwen brings a strong theoretical and practical background in disability studies and disability justice to her advising role, where she is excited to support students and faculty at Oregon Tech.

Returning to her hometown of Portland, Anwen is a passionate community organizer and advocate who loves cats, crocheting, embroidery, and all other fiber arts she can get her hands on.