

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.

Oregon Tech Vision Statement

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

Oregon TECH

Oregon Institute of Technology

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



Oregon TECH

***Lifting Oregon Tech
through the Headwinds***

Convocation

September 22-24, 2026

President's Welcome



Dear Colleagues,

I am honored and delighted to welcome you to the 2026 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, guided by our new Oregon Tech Forward 2027-2030 Strategic Plan, I invite us to embrace a theme that speaks to the moment before us: *Lifting Oregon Tech through the Headwinds*.

Headwinds are not new to higher education, and they are not new to Oregon Tech. Yet no aircraft rises by fleeing the wind -- it climbs strongly into the headwind, because resistance, rightly met, becomes lift. As we begin this academic year, let us carry that spirit into everything we do, seeing every discipline, every classroom, every laboratory, and every collaboration as an opportunity to turn challenge into lift. Our distinctive blend of applied sciences, engineering, health professions, and technology, grounded in project-based, applied learning, positions us to rise to this moment and make a profound difference in countless lives.

Through our polytechnic model and our deep traditions in engineering and the sciences, let us ensure our graduates leave prepared to lead, however the winds may shift. And through it all, let our commitment to improving the human condition remain our guiding motto, strengthening our communities and fueling innovation.

As we chart our course toward 2030, let us lift one another and elevate Oregon Tech as a premier destination where hearts and minds converge to improve lives.

Thank you for your dedication, your creativity, and your service to our students and our communities. With optimism and resolve, let us embrace this new year as a chance to advance excellence and deepen our impact.

Together, let's rise. Go Owls!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nagi G. Naganathan". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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

Provost's Welcome



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to a new academic year filled with hope, optimism, and excitement. Like you, I look forward to seeing our students return for lectures, labs, projects, papers, and all the experiences that come with them.

As we begin the year, we do so in an increasingly complex world marked by significant challenges and a growing need for compassion and principled leadership. In such times, it is worth reflecting on the university's enduring role in society and our responsibility as educators to help transform difficult realities into better ones.

With that in mind, I invite us to consider the path ahead through the lens of the traditions and ideals that have shaped higher education for centuries.

More than eleven centuries ago, seeking to serve her community and advance the pursuit of knowledge, Fatima al-Fihri founded the University of al-Qarawiyyin in Morocco, recognized by many today as the world's oldest continuously operating institution of higher learning. Its purpose extended beyond preserving knowledge; it provided a place where important questions about society, ethics, and human progress could be explored with rigor and independence.

These values of education, societal advancement, and public service have continued to shape universities as they developed and spread over the centuries, through to the present day. From al-Qarawiyyin and Al-Azhar to Bologna, Oxford, and Cambridge, universities evolved from community-centered institutions into influential centers for educating leaders and strengthening civic life. That tradition continued through American institutions such as Harvard, William & Mary, and Yale, which helped lay the foundation for many others that followed.

Today, the most urgent role of the university remains its oldest: to guide society toward the good. In an age of polarization and information overload, the world needs our character and example as much as our scholarship and achievements. Consistent with our commitment to improving the human condition, it needs our empathy, collective determination to make a meaningful impact, respect for differing perspectives, and courage to speak ethical truths even when doing so is difficult.

My friends, if society questions the value of a college degree these days, it is because society expects more from us. It expects us to be trusted stewards of human intellect and physical resources, committed to preparing students and fostering good citizenship, the role that universities have played for centuries. Let us never forget that our ultimate product is not, and never has been, simply a degree or a discovery, but a better and more just civilization. That is the torch passed from Fez to Bologna and now to our campus. Let us hold it high.

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

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

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:

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

5 years of service cont.

Markie Scheidegger

Senior Instructor I

Communication

Klamath Falls

Tracy Scharn

Instruction & Outreach Librarian

Library

Klamath Falls

Taylor Schaming

Associate Manufacturing Solutions Researcher

OMIC - Scappoose Operations

Bryan Wada

Information Technology Consultant 2

Information Technology Services

Klamath Falls

Jintai Wang

Associate Professor

Civil Engineering

Klamath Falls

Jennifer Wilson

Assistant Vice President

Institutional Equity

Klamath Falls

Michael Yilek

Assistant Director, Operations

Admissions

Klamath Falls

5 years of service

Willow Augustine

Employer Relations Specialist

Educational Partnerships & Outreach

Klamath Falls

Arief Budiman

Assistant Professor

Manufacturing & Mechanical
Engineering Technology

Klamath Falls

Brooke Cohara

Office Specialist 2

Housing

Klamath Falls

Michael Crenshaw-Davis

Administrative Program Specialist

Business Affairs

Klamath Falls

Jeff Daniels

Information Technology Consultant 2

Marketing

Klamath Falls

Kelly Filipchuk

Assistant Director, Retention

Advising and Retention Center

Wilsonville

Ken Fincher

Vice President

University Advancement

Klamath Falls

Grace Fore

Administrative Program Specialist

Registrar's Office

Tennessee

Danny Guthrie

Senior Admissions Counselor

Admissions

Wilsonville

Emily Gustafson-Plummer

Senior Instructor I

Dental Hygiene

Salem

John Harman

Senior Vice President

Finance and Administration

Klamath Falls

Mercedes Harrington Messex

Office Specialist 2

Facilities Services

Klamath Falls

Shannon Inman

Administrative Program Specialist

Dental Hygiene

Klamath Falls

Jennifer Kammerman

Research Administrative Manager

OMIC - Scappoose Operations

Beverly McCreary

Vice Provost for Faculty Success

Office of the Provost

Klamath Falls

Kyle McGann

Machine Solutions Researcher

OMIC - Scappoose Operations

David Myers

Head Coach of Golf

Athletics

Klamath Falls

Josephine Ness

Executive Director

Admissions

Klamath Falls

Nupur Pande

Instructor

Natural Science

Wilsonville

Robert "Bob" Reynolds

Pre-College Coordinator

Educational Partnerships & Outreach

Klamath Falls

Riley Richards

Associate Professor

Communication

Klamath Falls

Welcome to Convocation

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

College Union Crater Lake Complex

8:30-10:00**Welcome, Introductions, and Awards**

College Union Auditorium

10:15-11:15**President's Address****11:15-11:55****Keynote***Accelerating the Future of Medical Education:
Partnership, Innovation, and a New Vision for Oregon*Dr. Nathan R. Selden,
Dean of OHSU School of Medicine**12:00-1:00****Lunch, College Union Second Floor**

College Union Auditorium

1:15-1:45**Celebrating 10 Years of Success at OMIC R&D**

Don Hendrickson

1:45-3:15**Round Robin on Strategic Plan Implementation**

Provost El-Rewini, Dr. Mandi Clark, Dr. Ken Fincher, John Harman

3:30-4:00**NWCCU Accreditation**

Dr. Abdy Afjeh

4:00-4:50**Round Robin Updates**

Government Relations, Suzanne Kunse

Emergency Management, Doug Tripp

Inclusion, Dr. Jennifer Wilson

Human Resources, Sandi Hanan

Payroll, Karen Blevins

Wellness, Gaylyn Maurer

5:00-6:00**Faculty Senate Welcome, College Union Sunset****Admin. Council Welcome, College Union Mt. McLoughlin**

Guest Speaker

Nathan R. Selden, M.D., Ph.D., FACS, FAAP

Dr. Nate Selden is Dean of the OHSU School of Medicine and Executive Vice President of OHSU, where he holds the Mario and Edith Campagna Chair in Pediatric Neurosurgery.

His education and training runs from Stanford to Cambridge — where he earned a Ph.D. in neuroscience as a British Marshall Scholar - to Harvard Medical School, followed by neurosurgical training at Michigan and Northwestern. He joined OHSU and Doernbecher Children's Hospital in 2000 and chaired neurological surgery for eight years.

As co-principal investigator and surgeon, he led the first human neural stem cell therapy trial ever conducted. He is an author of the Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury Guidelines used across North America and around the world and has published more than 200 articles.

Few physicians have led both of neurosurgery's landmark societies. Dr. Selden is past president of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and of the Society of Neurological Surgeons, the world's oldest academic neurosurgical society. In 2013, the ACGME honored him with its Parker Palmer Courage to Teach Award. With Reed College's Nigel Nicholson, he co-authored The Rhetoric of Medicine: Lessons on Professionalism from Ancient Greece — a reminder that medicine at its best is equal parts science and humanity.



Oregon TECH

Marketing, Communications,
and Public Affairs

PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOT SESSION

WHEN: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, FROM 12 PM-2 PM

WHERE: SUNSET, COLLEGE UNION

WHO: ALL FACULTY AND STAFF

WHY: GET A GREAT HEADSHOT FOR LINKEDIN, OUR
WEB DIRECTORY, PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS,
AND MORE!

Drop in anytime between 12 pm-2 pm

Images available online in 4 weeks!

15 years of service

Debra Disko

Program Representative 2

Wilsonville

Tara Guthrie

Associate Professor

Medical Imaging Technology

Klamath Falls

Patrick Kile

Instrument Technician 2

Civil Engineering

Klamath Falls

Karla Lindsey

Administrative Program Assistant

Registrar's Office

Klamath Falls

Ryan Madden

General Education Program

Director and Professor

Humanities and Social Sciences

Wilsonville

Gregory Pak

Associate Professor

Natural Science

Wilsonville

Paula Russell

Professor

Dental Hygiene

Klamath Falls

Feng Shi

Associate Professor

Electrical Engineering
& Renewable Energy

Klamath Falls

Sean Sloan

Associate Professor

Manufacturing & Mechanical
Engineering Technology

Klamath Falls

10 years of service

Kyle Chapman

Professor and Department Chair

Humanities and Social Sciences

Klamath Falls

Vivian Chen

Director of Procurement

Finance and Administration

Wilsonville

Carmen Curtz

Instructor

Integrated Clinical Sciences

Wilsonville

Kenneth Davis

Associate Professor and Department Chair

Mathematics

Klamath Falls

Caroline Doty

Professor

Integrated Clinical Sciences

Wilsonville

Jon Kelley

Operating Systems/Network Analyst 2

Information Technology Services

Klamath Falls

Jesse Kinder

Professor

Natural Science

Klamath Falls

Michelle Meyer

Director of Audit & Compliance

Finance and Administration

Klamath Falls

Ashlie Pence

Associate Registrar

Registrar's Office

Klamath Falls

Yuehai Yang

Professor

Natural Science

Klamath Falls

Oregon Tech recognizes years of service in increments of five years, beginning with those who have worked at Oregon Tech for five years. A year for length of service at Oregon Tech is traditionally measured as the number of full academic years.

40 years of service

Calvin Caldwell

Professor

Computer Systems
Engineering Technology

Klamath Falls

30 years of service

Todd Breedlove

Professor

Computer Systems
Engineering Technology

Klamath Falls

25 years of service

Christopher Bowman

Campus Security/Public Safety Officer

Campus Safety

Klamath Falls

Kevin Brown

Professor

Communication

Klamath Falls

20 years of service

Diana Angeli

Executive Assistant

President's Office

Klamath Falls

Richard Carson

Associate Professor

Medical Imaging Technology

Klamath Falls

Michael "Bruno" Daenzer Jr.

Trades/Maintenance Worker 2

Facilities Services

Klamath Falls

Irina Demeshko-Prosnik

Associate Professor

Manufacturing & Mechanical
Engineering Technology

Klamath Falls

Hui-Yun Li

Professor

Natural Science

Klamath Falls

Brandy Nightingale

Program Representative 1

Advising and Retention Center

Klamath Falls

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

8:00-8:45

Breakfast, College Union Second Floor

College Union Auditorium

9:00-10:00

Provost's Message, Dr. El-Rewini
*Reviving the University's Role in
Creating a Better World*

10:00-10:30

Provost Senior Leadership Team Annual Goals

Faculty Success, Dr. Beverly McCreary
Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. Abdy Afjeh

10:45-11:15

Provost Senior Leadership Team Annual Goals
Strategic Enrollment Management, Dr. Greg Stringer
Academic Affairs, Dr. Richard Besel

11:15-12:00

Provost Senior Leadership Team Annual Goals
Engineering, Technology, and Management, Dr. Neslihan Alp
Health, Arts, and Sciences, Dr. Jackie Zhang

12:10-1:00

Lunch, College Union Second Floor

College Union Auditorium

Panels 1-4

1:15-2:00

1: Graduate Education at Oregon Tech: New
Directions and Opportunities
Facilitator: Dr. Kyle Chapman

2:00-2:45

2: University Advancement: Strategic Fundraising
and Brand Alignment
Facilitator: Dr. Ken Fincher

3:00-3:45

3: The Use of AI in Polytechnic Higher Education
Facilitator: Dr. KC Santosh

3:45-4:30

4: Summer Reading: The Caring University
Facilitator: Dr. Kari Lundgren

5:00-7:00

Faculty Mentors and Mentees Meet and Greet,
Brevada Brewhouse

Thursday, September 24, 2026

All Day	University Advancement Division, Running Y College of ETM, CEET 121 Dr. Neslihan Alp College of HAS, College Union Crater Lake Complex Dr. Jackie Zhang Finance and Administration Division, College Union Sunset John Harman
8:00-12:00	
12:00-1:30	Lunch
1:30-4:00	ETM Departments, Dean and Chairs <i>Location will be announced by each department chair</i> HAS Departments, Dean and Chairs <i>Location will be announced by each department chair</i> Student Affairs Division, College Union Mt. McLoughlin Dr. Mandi Clark
4:00-5:30	Authors and Scholars Reception, Library

Faculty and Staff are invited to join

Meet the
Faculty Lunch



Monday,
Sept. 28



12 pm-
1:30 pm



Fieldhouse
Lawn

Everyone is Invited!



RSVP is appreciated in The Roost

Welcome New Faculty and Staff



Danice Watters

Clinical Manager
4/27/2026

Center for Wellbeing

Danice Watters, an Oregon Tech alumna, is excited to return to Oregon Tech as its new Clinical Manager, bringing over 20 years of experience in healthcare administration. She spent the first half of her career in direct patient care, building a deep appreciation for the realities healthcare providers face. Throughout her career, Danice found a passion for helping healthcare professionals improve the patient experience through reduced administrative burden, optimized workflows, and efficient, transparent systems, all centered around clinician well-being.

Her variety of experience, including roles in healthcare operations, quality improvement, technology and analytics, and education, brings a uniquely broad perspective on the challenges and opportunities in modern healthcare.

Outside of work, Danice loves spending as much time as possible doing life with her dedicated husband, two incredible children, and giant orange cat.



Teng Yang, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
9/15/2026

Manufacturing, Mechanical
Engineering, and Technology

Teng Yeng joins Oregon Tech as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Manufacturing, Mechanical Engineering, and Technology. She earned her Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of North Texas, where her research focused on advanced manufacturing, nondestructive evaluation, acoustics and ultrasound, and manufacturing diagnostics.

Her research interests include metal additive manufacturing, in situ process monitoring, material characterization, and manufacturing quality inspection. At Oregon Tech, Teng looks forward to involving students in hands-on research, laboratory development, and industry-connected engineering projects while contributing to the department's teaching and research mission.

Caden Yonker

Custodian, Facilities Services

10/27/2025



Jackie Zhang, Ph.D.

Dean
6/1/2026

College of Health, Arts, and Sciences

Jackie Zhang is an academic leader with 23 years of progressive experience in undergraduate and graduate education across both public and private universities. Having served as both Dean and Associate Dean, Jackie brings a wealth of expertise in administrative leadership, interdisciplinary innovation, and strategic institutional growth.

Jackie is especially excited about the college's unique role in advancing applied education, improving rural health, and strengthening the regional workforce. Together with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners, Jackie looks forward to expanding high-impact programs, deepening community engagement, and preparing graduates who make an immediate difference in their professions and communities.



Ja'Nae Smith

SIB and Basic Needs Coordinator
7/1/2026

Student Affairs

Ja'Nae Smith serves as the Student Involvement and Belonging/Basic Needs Coordinator at Oregon Tech's Portland-Metro campus. In this role, she supports student engagement, belonging, and holistic well-being while connecting students with resources that address basic needs and promote academic success.

Ja'Nae earned a bachelor's in Psychology and a Master of Science in Counseling with a concentration in Student Affairs in Higher Education from the University of Nebraska Omaha. She brings higher education experience in academic and administrative support, first-year experience programming and instruction, student engagement, and chapter advising. These experiences have shaped her passion for student-centered work and creating campus environments where students feel connected, supported, and empowered to succeed.

Originally from Omaha, Nebraska, Ja'Nae is excited to begin this new chapter in Oregon and looks forward to building relationships, collaborating across campus, and supporting Oregon Tech students.

Emma Sparkman

Associate Machine Solutions Researcher, OMIC Scappoose Operations 7/1/2026



Thomas Stevens

Financial Aid Counselor
8/1/2026

Financial Aid

Thomas Stevens joins the Financial Aid team as a Financial Aid Counselor, where he helps students navigate the financial aid process and identify funding opportunities that support their educational goals.

Thomas brings more than seven years of professional experience spanning higher education, cybersecurity, information assurance, and Department of Defense operations, along with a Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity and minors in Business and Information Technology from Oregon Tech. He worked in cybersecurity and technical operations supporting Department of Defense clients, where he developed expertise in analysis, training, compliance, and communicating complex information to diverse audiences. Thomas is passionate about helping students understand their options, overcome barriers, and successfully navigate the resources available to them throughout their educational journey.

In his free time, Thomas bowls, fishes, shoots pool, and spends time with his family.

Kurt Wada

Info Technology Consultant 2, Information Technology Services 4/6/2026

Tomas Aguilar

Trades/Maintenance Worker 1, Housing and Residence Life

3/16/2026



Hitiura Anihia, Ph.D.

Visiting Instructor, Marriage and Family Therapy
9/14/2026

Behavioral Sciences

Hitiura Anihia joins Oregon Tech as a Visiting Instructor. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Brigham Young University-Hawaii, a Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling from Michigan State University, and a Ph.D. in Couple, Marriage, and Family Therapy from Texas Tech University.

Driven by a commitment to equity in mental health, Hitiura focuses her scholarly passion on higher education and research aimed at helping minority groups navigate and overcome systemic barriers to therapy. In the classroom, she enjoys teaching both undergraduate and graduate students. Clinically, she worked directly with underserved communities to provide individual, couple, and family therapy.

Originally from French Polynesia, Hitiura balances her professional life by hiking, fishing, and enjoying time with family and friends.

Ahmed Ashour, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
9/15/2026

Computer Systems Engineering Technology



Ahmed Ashour is an Assistant Professor of Computer Systems Engineering Technology at Oregon Tech and a Senior Member of IEEE. He holds a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and is completing a second Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Idaho State University.

He brings more than 16 years of academic, technical, research, and managerial experience from across the United States and Egypt. His background includes university teaching, student mentoring, electronics product development, laboratory management, and business leadership as a company CEO.

His research spans artificial intelligence, 5G/6G networks, embedded systems, cybersecurity, signal processing, wireless communications, and the Internet of Things. He has published 26 peer-reviewed works and received Best Paper and Best Oral Presentation awards. He has also reviewed more than 60 scholarly papers, served as an NSF SBIR/STTR proposal panel reviewer, and contributed to writing NSF research proposals.

Richard Besel, Ph.D.

Vice Provost, Academic Affairs
6/29/2026

Office of the Provost



Richard Besel joins Oregon Tech as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. Previously, he served as Director of the School of Communications at Grand Valley State University. During his time at California Polytechnic State University, he held appointments as Chair of the Communication Studies Department, Director of the Science, Technology, and Society program, and Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies in the Liberal Arts program.

Trained as a rhetoric scholar, Richard earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, his M.A. from the University of Illinois-Chicago, and his B.A. from North Central College. Notable awards include the Distinguished Educator Award from the California Faculty Association, the Richard K. Simon Faculty Award for Outstanding Scholarship, and the Early Career Award for Achievement in Teaching, among others.

In his free time, Richard enjoys reading, spending time with his family, and playing strategy games like chess.

Uttamm Bhandari*Postdoctoral Research Associate, OMIC Scappoose Operations*

5/1/2026

**Johnette Boron***Administrative Medical Assistant*
4/6/2026

Student Health

Johnette Boron-Trotter recently joined Oregon Tech as the Administrative Medical Assistant for the Integrated Student Health Center. Johnette brings more than 15 years of healthcare experience and a genuine passion for helping others through both the clinical and administrative sides of patient care.

Prior to Oregon Tech, she worked at Sky Lakes Medical Center as a Patient Account Representative, specializing in medical claims for veterans and other government-supported programs.

Originally from Northern California's San Joaquin Valley, Johnette now enjoys the outdoors, appreciating wildlife and nature, and embracing off-grid living with her six golden retrievers. A proud mother of four college-graduate daughters, she deeply values higher education and the opportunities it creates.

Johnette is excited to support the health and well-being of Oregon Tech students and contribute to their academic success and overall campus experience.

**Justin Bowman***Director, Disability-Testing Services*
5/4/2026

Access and Campus Equity

Justin Bowman serves as Oregon Tech's Director of Disability & Testing Services and ADA Coordinator. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from Utah State University. Prior to joining Oregon Tech, Justin served as the Lead Access Adviser at Oregon State University, where he supported students with disabilities and advanced inclusive practices across campus.

Originally from Las Vegas, Nevada, Justin is passionate about accessibility, disability advocacy, and creating equitable opportunities in higher education. Throughout his career, he has worked to expand access and remove barriers for individuals with disabilities in both educational and employment settings.

Outside of work, Justin enjoys spending time with his family, running, and exploring new places through travel.

Bryson Carrier*Visiting Instructor, Natural Science*

1/5/2026

**Sherri Cassidy***Administrative Program Assistant*
3/2/2026

University Development

Sherri Cassidy joins the Oregon Tech Advancement team as a University Development Assistant, bringing more than 30 years of administrative experience in government, healthcare, and nonprofit environments. Prior to joining Oregon Tech, Sherri worked at Sky Lakes Medical Center and spent more than 20 years as an Administrative Technician in local government.

Raised in Oregon's Willamette Valley, Sherri moved to California as a young adult before eventually returning to Oregon with a strong commitment to serving her community and supporting those in need. She holds a degree in Office Administration/Law and is excited to be part of higher education and the Oregon Tech team, supporting the university's mission and contributing to student success.

Outside of work, Sherri enjoys spending time with family and friends, arts and crafts, her animals, traveling, and exploring the outdoors, especially near a lake or the ocean.

**KC Santosh, Ph.D.***Department Chair*
6/22/2026

Computer Systems Engineering Technology

Prior to joining Oregon Tech, KC "Casey" Santosh served in multiple leadership roles at the University of South Dakota, including Chair of Computer Science, Graduate Program Director, and Founding Director of AI Research, and previously held research appointments with the National Institutes of Health and the LORIA Research Center in France.

He earned a Ph.D. in Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence) from Université de Lorraine in France, and brings extensive experience in artificial intelligence, interdisciplinary curriculum development, academic leadership, accreditation, and research administration. Throughout his career, he has secured approximately \$10 million in external funding, authored 13 books and more than 280 peer-reviewed publications, and delivered more than 100 international keynote presentations.

His professional service includes leadership roles with IEEE conferences, editorial positions with leading artificial intelligence and medical imaging journals, and participation in national and international research review panels. He is passionate about advancing applied AI education, fostering industry partnerships, supporting student success, and expanding interdisciplinary research opportunities.

**Amit Sarode, Ph.D.***Assistant Professor*
9/15/2026

Electrical Engineering and Renewable Energy

Amit Sarode joins Oregon Tech as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Renewable Energy. He earned his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Old Dominion University and brings teaching and research experience in electrical engineering, biomedical engineering, and emerging technologies.

His research interests include renewable energy, bioelectronics, biosensors, nanomaterials, flexible electronics, energy harvesting, and electrochemical systems. His work has included the development of biofuel cells, photo-bioelectrochemical systems, and triboelectric nanogenerators for biomedical applications.

Amit is passionate about hands-on engineering education, research, and mentoring students. He looks forward to contributing to Oregon Tech's career-focused learning environment and supporting students in developing practical engineering skills for their future careers.

**Bayleigh Skelton***Accountant 2*
12/8/2025

University Development

Bayleigh Skelton supports the Oregon Tech Foundation's financial operations and helps ensure donor funds are managed responsibly and used as intended. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Oregon Institute of Technology.

As an Oregon Tech alumna, she is passionate about supporting students and enjoys contributing to the Foundation's mission through thoughtful financial stewardship.

Kathryn Nichols

Associate Machine Solutions Researcher, OMIC Scappoose Operations 1/12/2026

No Photo

Seth Ormsby

Library Technician 2 8/26/2026 Library

Seth Ormsby joins the Oregon Tech Learning Resource Center Team as a Library Technician II. He holds a master's degree in library and information science from the University at Albany. Before joining Oregon Tech, Seth served as a librarian at Ilsley Public Library in Middlebury, Vermont, maintaining special collections and working at the circulation desk.

Born and raised in upstate New York, Seth has a drive for serving others and assisting them in furthering their education. Seth is excited to be a part of a team that strives to uphold Oregon Tech's values and mission statement while creating an environment where both staff and students feel appreciated and empowered to meaningfully engage with and give back to their community.

Zander Ortega

Associate Machine Solutions Researcher, OMIC Scappoose Operations 7/1/2026

Brent Perrin

Executive Director, Facilities & Capital Planning 9/1/2026 Facilities Services

Brent Perrin joins Oregon Tech as the Executive Director of Facilities and Campus Planning. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Western Governors University and has more than 25 years of expertise in facilities management, commercial general contracting, project management, and design.

His interests include how spatial layouts and technology positively impact campus identity, learning outcomes, and operational efficiency. He is excited to further advance sustainability initiatives, enrich the campus experience, and foster student success.

In his free time, he enjoys hiking, camping, volunteering, and participating in sports with his family.

Rhys Pinkley

Trades/Maintenance Worker 1, Housing and Residence Life 10/13/2025

Mehtap Ricer

Coordinator, Global Engagement 1/12/2026 Online Learning

Mehtap Ricer is the Coordinator for the Office of Global Engagement and Study Abroad, where she coordinates study abroad programs, supports faculty international travel, and works to expand the university's global partnerships. She brings more than twenty years of international coordination experience from the Turkish Ministry of Trade, where she managed partnership projects with the EU Commission, the WTO, and UNECE, and coordinated training programs for over 1,000 professionals across Western Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia.

More recently, she taught English and supported adult immigrants and refugees from more than fifteen countries at the Northern Nevada Literacy Council.

Mehtap knows international education firsthand, having earned her Bachelor of Arts in International Relations in Türkiye and her Master of Science at Boston University as an international student. She is bilingual in Turkish and English and is currently pursuing her MLIS.

Meyhlin Santana Martinez

Spanish Interpreter, Dental Hygiene 10/6/2025

Gabriel Castro

TOP Advisor 11/17/2025 Tech Opportunities Program



Gabriel Castro is originally from Colorado, where he earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Colorado State University. Although he has a technical background, his passion has always been supporting the people and communities that have shaped him. As a first-generation college graduate who was deeply involved in his TRIO community, Gabriel is excited to bring his unique blend of experiences to serve the Klamath Falls community.

Outside of work, Gabriel enjoys spending time with family and friends, exploring the outdoors, reading, watching movies, and enjoying a good cup of coffee. He has also had the opportunity to travel to remarkable destinations including Morocco, Kenya, and Cambodia.

Beth Dunaway

Office Specialist 2 2/9/2026 College of Health, Arts, and Sciences



Beth Dunaway is the Office Manager for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, and Communication departments at Oregon Tech, where she supports faculty, staff, and students with the many administrative details that keep the departments running smoothly.

One of her favorite parts of her job is building relationships and creating an environment where people feel supported and welcomed. Whether she's coordinating a complex project or answering a quick question, her goal is always to make things a little easier for the people around her.

Outside of work, Beth enjoys decorating and organizing spaces, spending time with family and friends, and hanging out with her dogs.

Cole Erhardt

Associate Machine Solutions Researcher, OMIC Scappoose Operations 1/12/2026

Stephen Giordano

Director 7/20/2026 Housing and Residence Life



Steve Giordano joins Oregon Tech as the Director of Housing and Residence Life. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Maine and a Master of Public Service from Cumberland University.

Prior to joining Oregon Tech, Steve served as Executive Director of Housing and as a Business Department Professor at Cumberland University, supporting students throughout Tennessee and internationally. Steve brings a diverse background in business and higher education. His experience in leadership, operations, and student development has fueled a passion for helping students succeed academically and personally.

Steve is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive residential community where students can build meaningful relationships, develop life skills, and achieve their goals. He is proud to support Oregon Tech students with a safe and supportive living-learning environment that encourages growth, leadership development, and lifelong connections.

Cassandra Harter

Career Advisor, Career Services 12/1/2025

Morgan Hulsey

Associate Machine Solutions Researcher, OMIC Scappoose Operations 7/1/2026

Victoria Inogamova

Director, Budget and Planning, Budget Office 1/3/2025



Saiful Islam, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
9/15/2026

Manufacturing, Mechanical
Engineering, and Technology

Saiful Islam earned a Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Production Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and both a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Tennessee Technological University. Prior to joining Oregon Tech, he served as a Postdoctoral Research and Teaching Associate in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Georgia.

Saiful's research focuses on wire arc additive manufacturing (WAAM) of high-temperature materials, including refractory alloys and nickel-based superalloys. His work combines experimental research, advanced materials characterization, and computational modeling to establish design rules for additively manufactured components. He is excited to join the Oregon Tech community and contribute to the department's teaching and research mission.

Mitzi Johnson

Office Specialist 2, Office of the Provost

5/4/2026

Jacob Jones

Grounds Maintenance Worker 1, Grounds Maintenance

5/12/2026

Zachary Kane

Associate Machine Solution Researcher, OMIC Scappoose Operations 3/30/2026



John Killingsworth, Ph.D.

Director, Construction Management
8/31/2026

Management

John Killingsworth joins Oregon Tech as the Director of the new Construction Management program in the Business Management Department. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska and most recently came from Colorado State University.

John began his family and career in Oregon, so in many ways, he is coming home to contribute to the industry that helped him get started. He is excited to get to know the students and help them build successful careers and lives.

John is the father of four, with one granddaughter and a grandson on the way. His youngest son is also joining the Oregon Tech community as a freshman this year. They both love baseball and softball and look forward to cheering on the Owls.

Hannah Levine

Director
1/30/2026

Tech Opportunities Program (TOP)

Hannah Levine is the Director of the Tech Opportunities Program (TOP), Oregon Tech's TRIO Student Support Services program. She earned her bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Colorado Boulder and brings a diverse background spanning human resources, technology, entrepreneurship, and community development.

Before joining Oregon Tech, Hannah worked in human resources in the software and technology industry before spending seven years as an entrepreneur in Klamath County. Her work as a business owner and community advocate has included leading community development projects, creating opportunities for youth, and building partnerships across the region. She was recognized as Klamath County Entrepreneur of the Year in 2023-24 by the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce.

Hannah is passionate about creating opportunities for people to succeed and strengthening the communities they call home.



Jakob Lovern

Financial Analyst, Budget Office

11/3/2025

Jared Masl

Electrical/Control System Technician
5/4/2026

Facilities Services

No Photo

Jared Masl joined Oregon Tech as an Electrical/Control Systems Technician following more than 20 years in the electrical trade as an IBEW inside wireman. His experience encompasses commercial and industrial construction, healthcare facilities, data centers, renewable energy, and higher education.

Before joining the university, Jared contributed to several projects on the Oregon Tech campus, providing him with valuable knowledge of its facilities and electrical infrastructure.

In his current role, Jared applies his extensive field experience to the maintenance, troubleshooting, and improvement of the systems that support campus operations. He is committed to sound technical solutions, quality workmanship, and long-term reliability of Oregon Tech's facilities.

Outside of work, Jared enjoys spending time with his family, improving his home, camping, playing guitar, and attending live music.

Karen Mendez Reyes

Administrative Program Specialist, Dental Hygiene

9/29/2025

Melinda Mickelson

Executive Assistant
3/2/2026

Portland-Metro Academic Administrator



Melinda Mickelson serves as the Executive Assistant for Research & Academic Affairs at Oregon Tech's Portland-Metro campus. Originally from Caldwell, Idaho, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business & Economics with an international emphasis from George Fox University.

Mindy's background spans logistics, higher education, and elementary education. She spent 20 years in import and export logistics and eight years as Associate Athletic Director of Compliance and Office Manager at George Fox University, supporting more than 600 student-athletes and over 70 coaches. She also worked as an elementary school instructional assistant for a year and coached middle school cross country and track for three years, reflecting her commitment to education and mentorship.

Married to her college sweetheart, she and her husband have two children. She enjoys traveling, fishing, camping, running, and time with family and friends, and values service, meaningful relationships, and lifelong learning.

Daniel Ngugi, Ph.D.

Department Chair, Business Management
8/31/2026

Management



Daniel G. Ngugi is an accomplished academic leader and applied economist with extensive experience in academic program and departmental leadership. He has served as Professor of Economics and Chair of the Department of Business at Minot State University. He holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics and a Master of Science in Statistics, with scholarship spanning financial behavior, environmental and resource management, and development policy.

His collaborative leadership is grounded in systems thinking, transparent communication, and a commitment to applied learning and student success. At Oregon Tech, he is dedicated to strengthening the Department of Management through industry partnerships, multi-modality delivery, and preparing students for regional and global workforce needs.

He is married to Monica, and they have three children. He enjoys the outdoors, spending time with his family, and looks forward to exploring Oregon and contributing to the Oregon Tech community.