



JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
Governor

March 6, 2014

Dear Mr. Thorndike, Superintendent Perry, and Dean Thorpe for the Southern Oregon Success School2Work Committee:

I was pleased to receive the request that your post-secondary encouragement initiative, a Prosperity Initiative Pilot project, be designated as an Oregon Solutions project. After reviewing your request and the results of your Post-Secondary Encouragement Convocation I feel it is appropriate to designate it as an Oregon Solutions project as it meets many objectives we have for our state, our youth, and our communities. I understand that the project is focused on assisting schools in Jackson and Josephine counties to engage with community partners and businesses to strengthen post-secondary supports for students and to create new relationships and ways of working together that will increase student success over the long term.

I understand that the Project Team will focus on identifying specific commitments from community partners, businesses, youth development, and schools to increase the number of students who move on from high school to college or other post-secondary opportunities that will lead to good jobs. I am pleased that this work is coordinated with your Youth Development Committee and your Regional Achievement Collaborative, that it is focused on achieving our 40-40-20 aims for educational attainment, and that it is part of the overall statewide Prosperity Agenda strategy.

I am also designating the three of you as co-conveners of the Project Team. With the support of the Oregon Solutions staff you will lead a Project Team of community partners who are prepared to contribute to creating a successful project in Jackson and Josephine counties.

It is clear that we must do everything possible to make sure all youth have a chance to receive the education and training they need to get good jobs. This project has the potential to achieve this goal and to strengthen the connection among non-profit, business, and schools in your community. In addition, it may create a model for other Prosperity Initiative projects which can be replicated in other parts of the state.

Please keep my office updated on this effort and thank you for your work and enthusiasm thus far.

Sincerely,

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor

JAK:gw/lrh

cc: Greg Wolf
Beverly Stein
First Lady Cylvia Hayes