



Urban-Rural Ambassadors Summer Institute

Collaborating Across the Urban-Rural Divide

September 6 – September 15, 2018, Portland and La Grande

Portland State University (PSU) and Eastern Oregon University (EOU) are leading an effort, along with their community partners, to create an Urban-Rural Ambassador Program, a two-week, six-credit residential summer institute for undergraduate students to explore urban and rural connections in Oregon, and to develop the collaborative skills to work across Oregon's urban-rural divide.

Advancing collaboration on urban-rural solutions

Students will spend a week in La Grande studying rural issues and a week in Portland studying urban issues. The institute will include field trips highlighting local issues and culture, dinners with informational speakers, and structured opportunities to speak with community members. Class work will culminate in team work between urban and rural students who will synthesize what they've learned in a paper that demonstrates their capacity to serve as urban-rural ambassadors who advance collaboration on regional solutions in their professional and civic lives.

Oregon Solutions, a program of PSU's National Policy Consensus Center, is facilitating development of the program by helping secure and coordinate financial and in-kind contributions from public and private sector partners in the program.

Support is needed

Financial and in-kind sponsors are needed to help support program development, institute costs, and scholarships to reduce financial barriers to participation. Opportunities to give include:

- Program Sponsor: \$2,500-\$5,000
- Ambassador Sponsor (student scholarships to defray costs): \$500-\$2,000 per student
- Host or sponsor a dinner
- Provide a cultural tour or event

The institute will allow tomorrow's leaders to learn from each other about regional commonalities and differences. Students will develop the capacity to forge a path through the tension and stalemate that often characterize urban-rural debate, and to find solutions that fit local economies, values, and ways of life for the advancement of Oregon as a whole.



Contact

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Portland State
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