From the ECAN Co-Chairs,

On Monday July 9th, the 2013 Oregon Legislature came to close and now it is time to celebrate! The legislators fully funded OSU Statewides for $101M which includes $39.9M for OSU Extension Service. A sincere thank you to everyone who told their OSU Extension story at local town meetings, and especially to the 23 ECAN members who traveled from all corners of the state to attend OSU Day at the Capitol.

During the OSU Day at the Capitol, ECAN members met in person with one or more legislators. In addition, ECAN members along OSU Extension leaders joined OSU President Ray in a crowded room for a heartfelt conversation with Governor Kitzhaber’s Education Advisor Ben Cannon. Mr. Cannon not only learned more about OSU Extension but also it was an opportunity time to share how Oregon Open Campus’ mission aligns with the Governor’s 40-40-20 educational goals, especially in Oregon rural communities.

At the Spring ECAN meeting the following day, ECAN members wrote 74 follow-up thank you notes to their legislators. A week later ECAN members from each of the 12 OSU Extension signed what was ultimately 12 Letters of Support to the Joint Ways and Means Chairs. (See our letter at the ECAN website http://extension.oregonstate.edu/employees/volunteer-resources/ecan) We met our OSU Statewide funding goal because ECAN members connected with legislators not just once but many times over the last six months.

Our ECAN advocacy work continues as legislators return to their home districts. At our April ECAN meeting we made a commitment to not just focus on state legislation but also the local and federal policies that greatly impacts OSU Extension’s future. Mark your calendars to for our next Fall ECAN Meeting, October 29-30 at Kah-Nee-Ta. ECAN member Valerie Switzler and the Warm Spring Indian community will be our host. Stay tuned for more details coming in August.

In the meantime, enjoy Oregon’s bountiful harvest.

With great appreciation

Suzanne Briggs, ECAN Co-Chair

Carolyn Oakley ECAN Co-Chair
Thanks to ECAN Members for their service – Linda Modrell, At-Large West-side Commissioner, we are grateful for your dedication to OSU Extension.

Welcome our new ECAN Members. - Georgia Nowlin, Curry County (Brookings) Brookings, and Kelley Gross, Union County (La Grande).

For all ECAN members - Be sure to check out our ECAN Website http://extension.oregonstate.edu/employees/volunteer-resources/ecan and for OSU Extension latest stories go to our “Bridges” website. http://extension.oregonstate.edu/bridges/

ECAN History in Review
Starting in July, 2013 ECAN News along with comprehensive ECAN meeting notes will be posted on the OSU ECAN website. We encourage ECAN members to share this link with their advisory board so they can read and contribute to the statewide ECAN planning. We encourage all ECAN members to contribute suggestions and ideas to the ECAN Co-chairs (their email addresses are available in your ECAN Member Directory).

From Scott Reed’s Desk
Now that the dust has settled on the 2013 Oregon Legislature, it’s time to take a deep breath, reflect on the outcomes, AND start preparing for 2015! On behalf of the team in Extension Administration--and the entire Extension Service--a huge "THANK YOU" to ECAN members who helped develop and provide communication to decision makers. You made a difference!

Later in this newsletter you will see reference to ECAN advisory and advocacy roles. A related responsibility is to LEARN, and we will focus on learning about programs and opportunities in central Oregon when we meet at Kaneta-Ta Resort October 29-30, 2013. Of course, an engaged university also learns-from you and others. So please help us to continue our path to the future by sharing your perspectives so that we can live up to the strategic plan for outreach and engagement at OSU. Most important are the needed PARTNERSHIPS to help improve the ACCESS to knowledge to improve the lives of people and communities while sustaining our natural resources.

As an ECAN member, have you taken time to get to know your local Extension faculty and staff, and the programs they conduct? One of my personal goals is to stimulate more regular ECAN conversations across the state. Please take advantage of your connection to local programs. In doing so, we will hear your voice in development of local priorities and you can bring relevant local program experiences to our ECAN conversations.

Once again, we are deeply appreciative of your contributions to the OSU Extension Service and the Statewide Public Services. See you soon.
Onward! Scott
Oregon Legislators Make the OSU Statewides Whole

In the closing days of the 2013 session, the legislature approved HB 5031 which funds the Oregon University System, including the OSU Statewide Public Service Programs – Extension, Agricultural Experiment Station and Forest Research Laboratory. Final passage of the bill included a full budget recovery for these programs. The Governor’s proposed budget for the OSU Statewides, issued in December 2012, included no inflationary increases and would have left them $7 million short of the funding needed to maintain their current level of service. The proposal would have resulted in the loss of 30 faculty and staff positions across the state. Thanks to the ECAN’s efforts and those of a diverse coalition of natural resource and environmental advocates legislators responded in March with a budget that proposed a $5.7 million add-back.

During the remainder of the session advocates continued to push for an additional $1.3 million for the programs. When HB 5031 was finally approved in June, legislators had added a total of $6.2 million back to the OSU Statewides. The remaining amount – approximately $700,000 – was recouped through savings to programs that will occur with the adoption of legislative revisions to the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS). As a result, the Statewides effectively achieved a full recovery.

The bill allocated $39,909,526 for the OSU Extension 2013-2015 budget:
http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measpdf/hb5000.dir/hb5031.en.pdf
The Governor signed the bill on June 28th. See HB 5031’s milestones and learn how your legislator voted at Measure History of HB 5031. http://www.leg.state.or.us/mag/home.htm (enter House Bill 5031) For more details, check out Measure Analysis of HB 5031. Watch for a complete summary of the 2013 from the OSU Government Relations Office.
https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2013R1/Downloads/MeasureAnalysisDocument/22171 see page 3-4. (A number of legislators who voted against HB 5031 did so out of concern that the bill did not adequately fund Oregon’s higher education system.)

With the end of the 2013 legislative session, now is an ideal time to write a thank you note to your legislators for their public service. Over the 2013-15 biennium OSU is committed to seeking ways in which the Statewides will continue to serve Oregon communities across the state.

Our Collective Wisdom! Notes from April ECAN Meeting - The notes are available on our ECAN website at:
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/employees/volunteer-resources/ecan
2013 OSU Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Delegates

Frank Burris, Curry County, led the 2013 OSU PILD delegation last April, which included Weston Miller, Clackamas, Lynnette Black, Wasco, Jamie Davis, Lake County, Deb Maddy, OSU Campus and Suzanne Briggs, ECAN Co-Chair. The two day Washington DC conference included Extension policy presentations at both the local, state and federal level.

Inspirational speakers shared excellent examples of elevator speeches, and strategic ideas on how to build long-term relationships with legislators and most importantly, with hard working, insightful staff members. USDA’s Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, formerly with OSU, was a keynote speaker with a strong focus on extension youth programs. Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, a seasoned retired Kansas State University Professor spoke with passion and humor about his days educating legislators on Capitol Hill over decades. He stories referred to many familiar and powerful House and Senate members.

After the conference the OSU PILD delegates visited all six Oregon legislators’ offices. They had the good fortune to meet in person Representative Walden, Senator Merkley and Representative Blumenauer. Every Thursday morning, Senator Merkley invites Oregon citizen to his office for Stumptown Coffee and an update on the current legislation events. The delegate not only met the Senator, but other fellow Oregon citizens who they have worked with in the past. Encourage your ECAN members to be sure to drop in to this wonderful gathering next time they visit Washington DC.

The 2013 OSU PILD delegates wants to thank Kate Sinner, OSU Government Relations, and Dana Martin, Extension Government Relations Chair for setting up meetings and providing the background information to maximize their PILD experience.

From Representative Walden Newsletter
“It was also great meeting with representatives from OSU’s Extension Service, including Lynette Black from Wasco County and Jamie Davis from Lake County. Whether it is by exploring new techniques and crop opportunities for farmers, promoting nutrition and healthy lifestyles for families, or helping build life skills in our youth through 4-H programs, OSU Extension is doing excellent work across Oregon.”

Thursday Morning Coffee with Senator Merkley