

South-Willamette Valley & Central Coast FY2026 Community-Initiated Project Quotes:

Oregon State University is committed to supporting the state and nation's semiconductor sector. The funding will allow OSU to continue to produce a skilled workforce and help the state remain at the cutting edge of chip design. We are grateful for the support from Senators Merkley and Wyden to secure funds for OSU to receive critical tools that will help us continue our work towards creating the next generation of semiconductor devices," **said Dr. Brady Gibbons, Associate Dean for Research at Oregon State University.**

"Oregon State University is working to complete its new Huang Collaborative Innovation Complex on the Corvallis campus in 2027 which will host a powerful supercomputer. As part of OSU's efforts to establish state-of-the-art computing and technology capabilities, OSU greatly appreciates Senators Merkley and Wyden for the support to secure a NIST equipment grant to procure new integrated AI and Digital Twin servers. This equipment is of particular importance for OSU's collaborative work with other universities in the state to drive health innovations at the intersection of biological sciences and technology," **said Dr. Irem Tumer, Vice President of Research and Innovation at Oregon State University.**

"The University of Oregon, in partnership with NIST, will continue to expand its premier research capabilities in materials characterization. Adding state-of-the-art instrumentation will enhance characterization tools for researchers in academia and industry at the UO's Center for Advanced Materials Characterization in Oregon (CAMCOR)—a full-service, comprehensive imaging and analysis facility located in Eugene and staffed by experts in various materials characterization methods. The full-service facility will also train the next generation of industry-bound students as well as current high-tech workforce members," **said UO Chemistry Professor Geri Richmond, vice president of research and innovation (interim) and Presidential Chair in Science.**

"The Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District is excited about this news! This funding is a critical investment in the safety and resilience of our region. It will significantly enhance our wildfire preparedness by allowing us to build and sustain a dedicated wildland firefighting workforce, improve training and response capabilities, and expand our capacity to protect lives, property, and Oregon's natural landscapes. As wildfires become more frequent and severe, rural fire districts like ours face increasing challenges with limited staffing and resources. This support helps us not only meet today's demands but prepare for tomorrow's emergencies. We are deeply grateful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for championing these projects and for their continued commitment to strengthening wildfire response across rural Oregon. Having the support of the Senators shows that all Oregonians are in this together. These partnerships are the foundation to creating a safer and more fire resilient Oregon," **said Nick Tyler, Fire Chief, Sweet Home Fire District**

"By equipping our new OCATT Center with advanced training systems, this \$1 million investment will help Oregonians prepare for the jobs coastal employers need most – right here in Newport," **said OCCC President, Dr. Marshall Mease Roache.** "We're grateful to our entire

Oregon Delegation Team, and especially to Senators Merkley and Wyden, and Representative Val Hoyle, for championing this project for our communities.”

“The Siletz Valley Fire District is extremely grateful to Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden and Congresswoman Hoyles’ offices for helping to find this funding and continued to champion its passage for us,” **said Dave Lapof, Siletz Valley Fire District Chief.** “For a small rural agency such as ours, these funds allow us to take a significant step in protecting the citizens of our Fire District. This includes the communities of Logsdon and Blodgett the City of Siletz, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians main infrastructure. The funding will allow for modifications to our current facility to offer emergency shelter to those in need during natural disasters and a secure area to coordinated emergency response amongst all of the agencies we protect. It is representation such as this that small agencies like the Siletz Valley Fire District are appreciative of, for their support and partnership.”