

Senate Bill 1539

Sponsored by Senators COURTNEY, JOHNSON, LINTHICUM, Representative SMITH DB; Senators BEYER, BURDICK, DEMBROW, FINDLEY, FREDERICK, GELSER, GIROD, GOLDEN, HANSELL, HEARD, MANNING JR, MONNES ANDERSON, PROZANSKI, ROBLAN, STEINER HAYWARD, TAYLOR, THATCHER, WAGNER, Representatives GOMBERG, MITCHELL, RESCHKE, ZIKA (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Designates Oregon Institute of Technology as Oregon's Polytechnic University.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Oregon Institute of Technology.

3 Whereas Oregon Institute of Technology ("Oregon Tech") was founded in 1947, at a time of
4 spectacular growth in technology, to assist returning World War II veterans in acquiring skills to
5 reenter the workforce; and

6 Whereas Oregon Tech, as a technological university, expanded its mission over the ensuing
7 decades to provide innovative undergraduate and graduate professionally focused degree programs
8 in the areas of engineering, health, business, technology, computer science and applied arts and
9 sciences to meet the needs of industry and Oregon; and

10 Whereas Oregon Tech offers statewide educational opportunities and technical expertise to meet
11 the current and emerging needs of Oregonians as well as other national and international constitu-
12 ents; and

13 Whereas Oregon Tech is a career-focused undergraduate and graduate university that combines
14 applied learning with a liberal arts education, including critical thinking, complex problem solving
15 and communication and leadership skills; and

16 Whereas Oregon Tech employs faculty who were industry practitioners and who are still en-
17 gaged in their field, and this faculty imparts their current experiences in innovation and professional
18 expertise to students in unique degree programs that are valued by industries; and

19 Whereas, throughout their time at the university, Oregon Tech students work in multidiscipli-
20 nary and interdisciplinary teams, engage in project management processes and develop to be
21 career-ready professionals; and

22 Whereas Oregon Tech provides its students with a hands-on, professionally focused education
23 and project-based learning that emphasizes innovation, scholarship and applied research; and

24 Whereas Oregon Tech engages its students in experiential learning in its courses, including
25 internships, externships, community-based programming and other applied practices; and

26 Whereas Oregon Tech encourages creativity and solving real-world problems to improve and
27 enhance student learning outcomes and prepare students for career achievement the day they
28 graduate; and

29 Whereas Oregon Tech consistently achieves remarkably successful rates of employment and
30 starting and lifetime salaries for its graduates; and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas Oregon Tech, as industry’s university and as a polytechnic institution, is a surrogate
2 lab for industries and their innovative ecosystems with a focus on the progressive management of
3 intellectual property and on working with industry in advanced technologies on actual commercial
4 projects; and

5 Whereas Oregon Tech collaborates closely with industry and other education institutions
6 throughout Oregon and the region to prepare a skilled workforce and to advance economic devel-
7 opment across Oregon; and

8 Whereas Oregon Tech founded, with authorization from the Legislative Assembly, the Oregon
9 Renewable Energy Center (OREC) with a mission to develop and promote renewable energy inno-
10 vations through applied research, academic degree programs and industry training; and

11 Whereas Oregon Tech is proud to serve as the founding host institution for Oregon Manufac-
12 turing Innovation Center Research & Development (OMIC), which strengthens industry ties, en-
13 hances applied research and connects students with innovative technology and industry practices;
14 and

15 Whereas Oregon Tech values and prepares students from diverse backgrounds for diverse
16 workforce experiences that ensure a global citizenry; and

17 Whereas Oregon Tech strives to achieve global recognition among polytechnic universities, to
18 be recognized as industry’s university and to nurture the leaders of tomorrow; now, therefore,

19 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

20 **SECTION 1. Oregon Institute of Technology is designated and shall be known as Oregon’s**
21 **Polytechnic University.**

22