



December 15, 2021

To the Board of Trustees  
Western Oregon University  
Monmouth, Oregon

We have audited the financial statements of Western Oregon University (the University) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, and have issued our report thereon dated December 15, 2021. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

**Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit under Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and *Government Auditing Standards***

As communicated in our letter dated May 17, 2021, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements and major program compliance does not relieve you or management of its respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of Western Oregon University solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

We have provided our comments regarding internal controls during our audit in our Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* dated December 15, 2021.

**Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit**

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

## **Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence**

The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, and our firm have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

## **Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Significant Accounting Practices**

### *Significant Accounting Policies*

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by Western Oregon University is included in Note 1 to the financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during 2021. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

### *Significant Accounting Estimates*

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments.

The most sensitive accounting estimates affecting the financial statements are as follows:

Collectability of receivables and student accounts are based on past history and current market conditions. We reviewed the underlying assumptions and past history to determine that the estimate appears reasonable.

The remaining obligation under the other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plans is based on actuarial estimates provided by Milliman and audited by independent auditors. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the OPEB assets/(liabilities) in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the net pension liability is based on actuarial estimates provided by the Oregon Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS). We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the net pension liability in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of lost revenue for HEERF funding. The University computed lost revenue by projecting what total lost revenue would be for the 2020-2021 and 2019-2020 school year as a result in the drop in attendance for tuition and related auxiliary revenue streams.

## *Financial Statement Disclosures*

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the University's financial statements relate to:

Note 13 – Employee Retirement Plans – This describes the details and assumptions of the Oregon Public Retirement System (OPERS) Plan and the related net pension liability.

Note 14 – Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) – This describes the details of the postemployment benefit plans.

### **Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit**

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

### **Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements**

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole. The following summarizes uncorrected financial statement misstatements whose effects in the current and prior periods, as determined by management, are immaterial, both individual and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole:

- To pass on the revenue recognized in the prior year associated with the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding that should have been recognized in the current year. This resulted in net position being overstated by \$327,500 and revenue and associated change in net position being understated in the current year by \$327,500.
- To pass on recognizing revenue in the prior year, which is when the expenditure was incurred. This resulted in revenue being overstated in the current year by \$165,344 and net position being understated by \$165,344.

The effect of these uncorrected misstatements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020 is an understatement of revenue of \$162,156 and an overstatement of beginning net position of \$162,156.

### **Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the University's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

### **Representations Requested from Management**

We have requested certain written representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated December 15, 2021.

### **Management's Consultations with Other Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

### **Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues**

In the normal course of our professional association with the University, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, operating and regulatory conditions affecting the entity, and operational plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the University's auditors.

### **Other Matters**

The financial statements include the financial statements of Western Oregon University Development Foundation (the Foundation), which we considered to be a significant component of the financial statements of the University. The financial statements of the Foundation were audited by other auditors, and we did not assume responsibility for the audit performed by the other auditors, rather we have referred to their audit in our report. Our decision to refer to the report of the other auditor is based our evaluation of the materiality of the Foundation with respect to the financial statements as a whole. Our audit procedures with respect to the Foundation included required correspondence with the other auditor, obtaining and reading their auditor's report and the related financial statements, and other procedures as considered necessary.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the members of the Board of Trustees, State of Oregon, and management of Western Oregon University and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Bailey LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Boise, Idaho



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**WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY**

**2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT RESULTS**

# AUDIT PROCESS

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- What happens during an audit?
  - Financial Statement Audit
    - Began Process in Spring 2021
    - Risk-Based Audit Approach
    - Testing
      - Involves confirmation, sampling analytics, inquiry and substantiation
    - Assessment of testing and reporting

# AUDIT RESULTS

- Financial Statement Audit
  - Significant Estimates
    - Pension
    - OPEB
    - Lost Revenue Associated with HEERF Grant
    - Allowance for doubtful accounts on student accounts
  - Significant Transactions During the Year
    - HEERF Funding
  - Unmodified Opinion on Financial Statements (Pg. 4-6)
  - Two passed adjustments

# UPCOMING GASB STANDARDS

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- **GASB 87, Leases**
  - Reporting periods beginning after 6/15/21
- **GASB 89, Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before End of a Construction Period**
  - Reporting periods beginning after 12/15/20
- **GASB 96, Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements**
  - Reporting periods beginning after 6/15/22





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# QUESTIONS?

This presentation is presented with the understanding that the information contained does not constitute legal, accounting or other professional advice. It is not intended to be responsive to any individual situation or concerns, as the contents of this presentation are intended for general information purposes only. Viewers are urged not to act upon the information contained in this presentation without first consulting competent legal, accounting or other professional advice regarding implications of a particular factual situation. Questions and additional information can be submitted to your Eide Bailly representative, or to the presenter of this session.

# THANK YOU!

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