



June 23, 2025

Dear University Community,

As we continue to navigate national discussions around immigration policies and ICE activities, I want to reaffirm Western Oregon University's dedication to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff, and faculty. Many in our community feel uncertain and anxious, and I want to reassure you that we are committed to creating a safe space for everyone.

Our university is part of a diverse and vibrant global community that enriches our campus in countless ways. While the future of some federally funded programs is uncertain, our support for all students, regardless of immigration status, remains intact.

As I mentioned in my last email on this subject, Oregon has long been a Sanctuary State, emphasizing the safety and dignity of all residents. The 2021 Sanctuary Promise Act further strengthens protections for immigrant communities, ensuring transparency and accountability in government interactions with immigration authorities.

At Western, we strive to be a sanctuary for all, ensuring that every member of our community feels free to be their authentic selves. Here's how we are reinforcing this commitment:

- Our public safety officers do not enforce immigration laws.
- We will not engage in immigration enforcement unless legally mandated.
- We uphold a respectful and inclusive community, encouraging civil discourse.
- We will not tolerate discrimination or threats, and we are dedicated to maintaining a welcoming environment.
- We adhere to Oregon's Sanctuary Promise Act and related laws.

Looking ahead, Western will direct all outside inquiries regarding immigration status to Campus Public Safety to ensure compliance with applicable laws.

Thank you for your continued work to maintain a community built on respect, connection, and care.

Jesse Peters, President
Western Oregon University