



Portland General Electric Company
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James J. Piro
President and CEO

October 31, 2014

Dear Joint Boards Articulation Committee:

Established in 2013 by HB2636, Oregon's STEM Investment Council strongly supports the proposed Associate of Science Oregon Transfer degree in Computer Science (ASOT-CS).

As a Council comprised of industry leaders from across Oregon, we understand the importance of improving Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics education in our state and preparing our students for impactful careers. Computer science is a STEM field of study where Oregon industry faces a truly critical workforce shortage—not only in our technology firms, but in many industry sectors, at many levels.

The proposed ASOT-CS degree program will enable seamless transition between Oregon's community colleges and Oregon's public universities for students studying computer science. The program will provide clear advising and affordable pathways for students interested in baccalaureate study of this important discipline. We believe the proposed ASOT-CS will increase the number of students achieving baccalaureate computer science degrees, and that its implementation will help elevate the visibility of this important career field in our state-- to students in all regions of Oregon.

Our companies need more well-educated software professionals. We urge your timely approval of the ASOT-CS proposal, and support its implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Piro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Piro
Chair
Oregon STEM Investment Council