

Questions and Answers



Lane Community College
Foundation

4000 East 30th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97405-0640

Phone 541.463.5226
Fax 541.463.3985

www.lanecc.edu/foundation

Why is the Lane Community College Foundation conducting the Opening Doors Campaign?

Our community faces a shortage of health care workers, particularly nurses, that is rapidly approaching crisis proportions. Lane's vision is to provide solutions to this vital workforce need. An investment by the community is needed to expand capacity in these vital programs. A new building and additional faculty are critical to addressing this capacity issue. Additionally, this campaign is focused on building endowed funds. These eternal funds provide annual income for current needs. They will allow Lane to increase student scholarships, create faculty chairs, and provide the college with funds necessary to respond in innovative ways to the changing needs of business, industry and education in our community.

Why is Lane involved in a \$23 million dollar fundraising initiative when the college is considering going to the voters for a bond measure?

In November 2008, voters may be asked to renew Lane's 1995 bond at the current level. Renewing the bond won't increase property tax rates; it will just continue the present rate. If passed, bond funds would maintain and enhance existing buildings and facilities to protect the public's investment in the college infrastructure. Many campus buildings are over 40 years old and need remodeling to serve modern programs and to upgrade the electrical, HVAC, roofing and other infrastructure.

In contrast, funds from private donors for the Opening Doors campaign will be used to qualify for state matching funds for a new Health and Wellness Building to address the shortage of nurses and other health professionals. Other Opening Doors funds will be used to provide additional faculty for nursing and science programs, provide additional student scholarships and fund innovation in curriculum improvement.

As a tax-assisted college, why does Lane need to raise private dollars?

Lane is tax assisted, not tax supported. State funding for the Lane Community College General Fund has declined 20% from 2001-02 through 2006-07. This decreased funding cuts into the operating budget and leaves no extra funds for these important initiatives.

What is the timeline for the campaign?

The State of Oregon is providing \$6.75 million in funding for the new Health and Wellness Building to match contributions from members of the community. The foundation must raise these matching dollars by November 2008 to be eligible for the state bond funds at the earliest opportunity. That would allow the college to begin the construction process in the spring of 2009 and plan for groundbreaking in the fall of that year. Our vision is to move into the new building in time for fall 2011 classes!

How much of my investment will go to campaign initiatives I select?

Ninety-seven cents of every dollar invested will go directly to the designated project or program. The remaining 3 percent will go to support the continued campaign efforts. Lane is pleased that this is far below the findings of a national study showing that development costs for institutions of higher education typically range from 11 cents to 16 cents per dollar raised.

What are Lane's existing sources of revenue?

State and Federal Government	38.2%
Property Taxes	20.8%
Tuition and Mandatory Fees	35.4%
Other sources	5.6%

Why not raise tuition and fees more?

An essential part of the Lane Community College mission is to provide affordable educational opportunities that are accessible to our community members. Tuition has increased by 92% in six years. As tuition rates increase, more students will find they cannot afford to enroll at Lane.

Can I designate my gift for a particular purpose?

Absolutely! Gifts can be given without restriction or designated to a particular area of interest. Indicate on your pledge card if you want to direct your gift to one of the major initiatives or to a specific area at the college.

Why are pledges being encouraged rather than one-time gifts?

Pledges allow donors the flexibility of making gifts on their terms based on their financial capabilities. A gift over three, four, even five years ensures that Lane Community College will have the cash flow necessary to make the Opening Doors initiatives a reality.

Are there opportunities for named or memorial gifts?

Many opportunities are available for investors to make named gifts or gifts in memory (or in honor) of a loved one. Investors interested in these kinds of gifts should contact the foundation office. A list of naming opportunities is available.

Why is the campaign placing so much emphasis on increasing the size of Lane's endowment?

The endowment is one of the principal financial foundations of higher education. A robust endowment can act as a buffer, lessening the college's vulnerability to economic and political change. Despite downturns in the economy, or federal and state budget shortfalls, the endowment payout policy is designed to produce a stable and growing source of revenue, year after year.

How do I start an endowment?

An endowment is an eternal fund that provides annual income for current needs. Your original gift is invested to maximize total return – interest plus market value. An endowment donor is a special kind of benefactor, one whose commitment and vision are significant and long term, and who understands and appreciates the purpose and importance of Lane Community College. There are many ways to make a gift that will be within your means. You can pledge to start a future endowment by making regular contributions over a five-year period until you reach the minimum requirement of \$25,000. The majority of significant endowments are created with appreciated assets, not annual income. The foundation has an information brochure that briefly reviews the many ways you can make a gift.