Wim Wiewel

Wim Wiewel assumed the presidency of Portland State University in August 2008. Under his leadership, the University has developed five guiding themes: Provide civic leadership through partnerships, improve student success, achieve global excellence, enhance educational opportunity, and expand resources and improve effectiveness. This has brought a renewed focus on expanding the university’s civic partnerships in the region and achieving a new degree of excellence through investments such as the $25 million James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation challenge grant for sustainability.

Since Wiewel’s arrival at Portland State, several key indicators of success have shown continued improvement. Enrollment has grown from 25,000 to nearly 30,000 students (2012-2013). Minority enrollments have increased by 46%, with the number of Latino students doubling, and international students enrollment growing by 35% to 2,000 students. The 2012 graduating class topped 6,000 students—the largest in the history of any Oregon university.

Research expenditures at PSU have increased from $40M to $67M, while the University’s endowment has grown by more than one third to nearly $40M. The Division I Viking athletic programs have combined for 13 conference championships.

The University has garnered numerous accolades from national publications and organizations. U.S. News & World Report lists PSU among its “Top-10 Up-and-Coming National Universities” (2013), “Programs That Lead to Student Success” (2008-2013), “Top Choices for Transfers” (2011). In 2011, the University’s sustainability programs were awarded a Gold STARS rating by the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, while the Sierra Club has rated PSU among its top-100 “Cool Schools” (2010, 2012). PSU was one of only six colleges added to The Princeton Review’s “The Best 376 Colleges” 2012 edition, and returned in the 2013 edition; The Princeton Review also recognized graduate business programs and PSU’s commitment to sustainability. In October 2012, Wiewel received the U.S. Green Building Council’s inaugural Center for Green Schools Presidential Award.

Prior to coming to Portland State, Wiewel was the provost and senior vice president of Academic Affairs at the University of Baltimore. While at Baltimore, he initiated a new freshman and sophomore program, and a new emphasis on the university’s role in Baltimore’s revitalization.

From 1979 to 2004, Wiewel was with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), where he most recently served as dean of the College of Business Administration. He also served as dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs and as special assistant to the chancellor. In these positions, Wiewel played a lead role in establishing the Liautaud Graduate School of Business, a new College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, and the UIC Great Cities program. Wiewel also directed UIC’s Center for Urban Economic Development.

He holds degrees in sociology and urban planning from the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands and a Ph.D. in sociology from Northwestern University.

Wiewel is chair of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities and on the boards of the Portland Business Alliance, World Affairs Council of Oregon, the American College and University’s Presidents Climate Commitment, and the Metro Leadership Council. He is past president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, a fellow of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and senior editorial adviser of Economic Development Quarterly.

Wiewel has authored or edited nine books and more than 65 articles and chapters that have appeared in such publications as Economic Development Quarterly, Economic Geography, and the Journal of the American Planning Association. His most recent books are Global Universities and Urban Development, The University as Urban Developer, and Suburban Sprawl.

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