May 16, 2018

Dear PSU Faculty Senate,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Oregon Department of Education, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. This letter is in addition to the one written by my Supervisor, Dr. Markisha Smith. The Confucius Institute at PSU is very important to our office because it promotes multilingualism and multiculturalism, both of which aid in helping Oregon students succeed. Our primary goal and our vision for the future of Oregon, is to close the opportunity gap. We value languages other than English and view them as an asset. The Confucius Institute has helped many Oregon students in many ways. It promotes an understanding of other cultures, cultivates student’s native language, collapses language barriers, and motivates students to be knowledgeable about the world.

The Confucius Institute has our utmost support at the Department of Education. As a board member and social advocate for change in our public schools, I cannot express enough how important this program is to our state and to me personally. I have heard student testimony stating the differences this program has made in their lives and how many opportunities it has afforded them. Parents consistently contact me praising the program and what it has done for their child (ren). District administrators and Principals rave about the teachers from China and what a difference they make in students’ lives. Countless Oregonians support the Confucius Institute!

I look forward to giving continued support to the Confucius Institute. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the content of this letter.

Sincerely,

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