U.S. News & World Report has named Portland State University as a top 10 “up-and-coming” national university in its *Best Colleges 2013* guidebook.

The up-and-coming list recognizes universities for making “the most promising and innovative changes in the areas of academics, faculty and student life,” based on a survey of college presidents, provosts and admissions deans.

"These rankings reflect a growing recognition among our peers that PSU is an urban research university on the rise," said Wim Wiewel, PSU president. "The word is out about our commitment to excellence, community engagement and student success."

You can find PSU’s official press release, as well as links to U.S. News & World Report's official site [here](#).
Local Relations

Portland State of Mind:
Mayoral Debate, October 8th
13th Annual Simon Benson Awards Dinner, October 9th

Get into a Portland State of Mind as PSU opens its doors for a community celebration, October 4 - 14. The fun starts with an alumni art exhibition and ends with the annual PSU Weekend seminars and specialty tours. Check out the complete line up of activities—there is something for everyone. Many events are free, so come join us for some serious fun!

On October 8th, Portland State and KOIN TV are proud to host one of this year’s major mayoral debates. The debate will televised live from Lincoln Hall at 6:30pm. Come join us and learn more about the views of Charlie Hales and Jefferson Smith. Tickets are FREE and available here.

On October 9th, please join us for the 13th annual Simon Benson Awards Dinner honoring Oregon’s pioneers in philanthropy. This year’s keynote speaker is Academy Award-winning actor, director, producer and author Diane Keaton. All details on the event can be found here.
Current Congress Punts Budget to the 113th

Earlier this month Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government funded for another six months. Although the House of Representatives worked on many appropriation bills, the Senate still had not discussed or passed enough bills overall to approve a budget before the November election.

Sequestration, a tool in Congress to hold back money from agencies to decrease the deficit, is still slated for January 2, 2013. This would mean $109 billion for the first initial across the board cut, $1.2 trillion total over 10 years. This would significantly impact Portland State University and higher education institutions across the country. The Office of Management Budget (OMB) released a report recently that laid out potential cuts to agencies and programs of great interest to the scientific and higher education communities. As expected, these cuts reach into the billions. More specifically, campuses in the Oregon University System could see a loss of approximately $33.2 million in federal funds collectively.

The 113th Congress members will have their hands full when they arrive on Capitol Hill in January. There is talk of negotiations in moderate circles trying to figure out how to dull the blunt budgetary tool. However, with a presidential election in play, that will be difficult to do.

Federal Relations

President Wiewel recently visited the Capitol in Washington, D.C.; we see him pictured below with a staffer from Senator Jeff Merkley’s office, Angela Crowley-Koch

Federal Relations

(Above) Senator Jeff Merkley kicks off his Border to Border: Oil-Free Across Oregon Tour from PSU's Electric Avenue. More details on the Senator’s tour can be found here.

(Left) Congressman Earl Blumenauer visited with campus leadership recently.
On Thursday, September 13, Al Fitzpatrick, Angel Wykoff, and Roger Capps from the Advocates testified in front of the Special Committee on University Governance in support of the creation of a governing board for Portland State University. Their testimony focused on the benefits that a governing board would bring to PSU and the Portland metropolitan region. The Advocates also presented a letter from PSU President Wim Wiewel and the PSU Foundation.

On August 15, The Special Committee on University Governance released a draft of LC 759 for public comment. The comment period closed on September 15. Several other organizations also submitted comments in response to the committee’s draft legislation.

On Friday, September 7th, PSU President Wim Wiewel hosted several students, faculty, and staff at the Portland City Club to hear the keynote speaker Dr. Rudy Crew. Dr. Crew was hired in late May by Governor John Kitzhaber to become Oregon’s new Chief Education Officer.

Dr. Crew focused on his vision for education in Oregon including: creating a streamlined educational PreK-20 system, improving educational outcomes for minority students, and focusing on reading skills in early elementary. He also took several questions from city club members.

In attendance were students from ASPSU, the Graduate School of Education’s Dean Randy Hitz, the School of Social Work’s new Dean David Springer, Former Faculty Senate Presiding Officer Gwen Schuster, PSU librarian Marilyn Moody, and PSU’s new Provost Sona Andrews.

Pictured, from left to right: Roger Capps, Angela Wykoff, and Al Fitzpatrick.
The August 15th draft of LC 759 creates an 11-15 member governing board for Portland State University and the University of Oregon. The current draft gives these boards the authority to hire and fire the university president, set tuition rates, manage the institution’s financial affairs, issue revenue bonds, and enter into achievement compacts with the Oregon Education Investment Board.

The Committee will review the public comments and issue a final draft for introduction into the 2013 Session on November 1st. It is expected that there will continue to be issues that are unresolved in the final draft that will have to wait for committee action in the session.

Continued
Meet our new Graduate Assistant!

Jason received his BS in Political Science from PSU. He is now working on his MS with a primary focus in political theory and a secondary focus in international politics. His primary research deals with conceptions of power, freedom, and democratic legitimacy. After finishing his MS, he plans to continue his academic work and pursue a doctoral degree in Political Science. Jason is excited to be a part of the Government Relations family, and looks forward to working towards the goals and interests of the University.

Born and raised in downtown Indianapolis, Jason has lived in Portland for over three years and now considers the city his second home. Being from Indiana, he is a diehard basketball fan (Go Pacers!), and when he’s not working or studying, one can typically find him screaming at a television screen while enjoying a sporting event. His other passions include hip-hop and comic books. Jason, as one might guess, is a proud nerd.

(Above) While studying abroad in Fall 2010, Jason lived with the Masaai people of northern Tanzania. Over the course of four months, he conducted a study on the effects of neoliberal economic and political policies in peri-urban Tanzania.

(Left) Former GA Ari Wubbold and new GA Jason Lawrence.

Thank you, Ari! Best of Luck!

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