



Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon

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September 30, 2015

Bob Knight, President
Clark College - BRD 104
1933 Ft. Vancouver Way
Vancouver, WA 98663-3598

Dear Mr. Knight:

It has recently been brought to the attention of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon that Clark College is proposing to close the Land Surveying and Geomatics Program. PLSO understands attendance has dropped over the past five years and the college must readjust its budget to accommodate for the shortfall. Decisions affecting the future of professional communities cannot be easy and we appreciate the position you, as President, must be in.

With that said, we would like to take an opportunity to express to you the importance of the surveying geomatics program to the state of Oregon and southwest Washington. We are sure you already know the challenges our profession is facing, nationwide and especially in the West: the aging of the survey community and the growing need to replenish the ranks with young talent; the scarcity of academic programs offering 4-year and higher degrees in Geomatics; the need at Oregon Institute of Technology for transfer students to complete their 4-year Geomatics degree at the Wilsonville campus; constant outreach to inform young people about this great career opportunity and to recruit them into the academic programs, and ultimately the profession.

We know from experience that once a Geomatics program gets cancelled, the chances of it ever getting reinstated are nil. It would be a tragedy to lose the program at Clark College. I know from my involvement with the Lower Columbia Chapter of LSAW that you have a talented and experienced adjunct faculty teaching in an excellent facility. Please consider retaining the program. If you do, I pledge as PLSO Chair to task our Outreach Committee with redoubling its outreach and recruitment efforts. And if there is anything else PLSO can do to help preserve the Clark College Geomatics Program, please let us know.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John V. Thatcher".

John Thatcher, PLS
Board Chair
Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon

Cc: PLSO State Board and Executive Secretary