

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UO President Karl Scholz Honored with Emerald Award for Leadership

EUGENE, ORE.— University of Oregon President Karl Scholz has been named the inaugural recipient of the Eugene Chamber of Commerce’s Emerald Award for Leadership, recognizing his extensive efforts to reduce financial barriers to education and deepen connections between the university and the community. Scholz will be presented with the award at the annual Emerald Awards Ceremony, celebrating leaders and organizations dedicated to strengthening the region’s economy and quality of life.

Scholz’s leadership in creating accessible pathways for students, especially first-generation and underrepresented groups, reflects his dedication to making higher education more affordable. He has launched several initiatives to ease tuition costs, including the Pathways to Success scholarship program, which partners with local high schools to offer financial aid and academic resources to qualified students. Scholz has also championed partnerships with regional businesses, aligning career-building opportunities with academic programs to increase the economic mobility of graduates.

“Karl’s commitment to tackling social issues like financial barriers to higher education is what makes him stand out as a leader in our community,” said Brittany Quick-Warner, President of the Eugene Chamber of Commerce. “His work goes beyond academic research—it’s about real impact and we are honored to recognize his leadership with this award.”

Since becoming UO’s president in 2023, Scholz has advocated for social and educational initiatives benefiting the Eugene/Springfield region. His efforts align with UO’s mission of social responsibility, community engagement and sustainability, strengthening ties with local businesses and community groups and enhancing the resources available to students across Oregon.

“I am deeply honored to receive the Emerald Award for Leadership,” said Scholz. “The work I’ve done to reduce financial barriers to higher education reflects the University of Oregon’s commitment to accessible education for all. I’m grateful to be part of such a vibrant and supportive community and to continue working toward a more inclusive future.”

The Eugene Chamber’s Emerald Awards celebrate leaders and businesses who contribute to regional vitality through sustainable practices and impactful leadership. This new leadership category highlights individuals who address local challenges and strive to improve the quality of life in Lane County.

About the University of Oregon

The University of Oregon is a leading public research institution dedicated to discovery, teaching and service. Located in Eugene, Oregon, UO serves over 22,000 students and fosters academic excellence, sustainability and inclusivity. For more information, visit www.uoregon.edu.

About the Eugene Chamber of Commerce

The Eugene Chamber of Commerce supports local businesses, fostering economic growth and community development across the Eugene/Springfield area. Through initiatives like the Emerald Awards, the Chamber celebrates businesses and individuals who contribute to the region's prosperity and quality of life. Learn more at www.eugenechamber.com.

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