

Legislative Briefing
Thursday, February 5, 2009, 8:30 am

- Good morning and thank you for taking the time to attend this legislative briefing.

- Let me recognize and say thank you to our Lansing hosts, Representatives Tim Melton of Auburn Hills, an OU alumnus, and Tom McMillin of Rochester Hills.

- I would also like to extend my gratitude to last sessions' higher education subcommittee chairs: Senator Tony Stamas and Representative Pam Byrnes for working diligently to advance higher education during these very challenging economic times.

- Oakland University is especially appreciative of their efforts and those of Governor Granholm and her administration, Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, Speaker Andy Dillon, Senate Appropriations Chairman Ron Jelinek, and House Appropriations Chairman George Cushingberry, Jr. for protecting higher education from the most recent round of state budget cuts in December.
- However, you and I know that we are not out of the woods yet.
- The economic forecast for the state and the nation remains gloomy and competition among the states is fierce.
- We simply can no longer afford to have Michigan lagging the nation in the percentage of residents 25 years or older with at least a bachelor's degree.

- Not only do college graduates earn more, they also pay more in taxes and give back to their communities in numerous ways.
- This is why it is so important to look at higher education as a statewide imperative.
- The state's greatest long term return on taxpayer's investment is in higher education.
- At this point, I would like to take a few moments to share a little bit about Oakland University.
- Power Point
 - History
 - Highlights
 - Medical School

- It is my pleasure to introduce John Beaghan, Vice President for Finance and Administration, who will share with you ongoing improvement projects at Oakland University.
- Power Point (John Beaghan)
 - Campus Facts
 - Academic Laboratory Renovations
 - Proposed Federal Stimulus Projects
 - Human Health Building
 - Engineering Center
- Thank you, John.
- At this time, I would like to share with you this short video highlighting OU.
- **DVD VIDEO / TV COMMERCIAL (2-3 minutes)**

Closing remarks

- Although Michigan's recent past is bleak, its future will be brighter if we all work together to do everything we can to make a quality higher education affordable and accessible to Michigan residents.
- As president of Oakland University, I can assure you that we are ready and able to help the region and state to be successful in the future.
- All we ask for is your assistance.
- Thank you and much success in this legislative session.