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Eastern Oregon University Receives \$5,500 Donation from the BottleDrop Fund

Donation will support Teach Rural Oregon project

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – The [Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative](#) (OBRC), which operates the [BottleDrop](#) network, announced today that it has donated \$5,500 through its BottleDrop Fund to [Eastern Oregon University](#) in La Grande. This donation will support the university’s Teach Rural Oregon project, a partnership that aims to recruit diverse student teachers to complete their student teaching in rural and isolated rural school districts across Oregon.

“We go out into the field, we collect samples, and then do a fair bit of data analysis,” said Dr. Joe Corsi, Cottonwood Canyon Teacher Institute instructor. “At the end, the teachers prepare a presentation. The idea here is to provide a model for the K-12 teacher that they can take back to the classroom and do with their own students.”

The hands-on approach has a significant impact on teachers attending the program. “This is the best professional development I have ever attended as a teacher,” said Brooke Armstrong, CCTI attendee. “I had the opportunity to learn real skills.”

Donation funds will be used by the university to defray transportation costs to Cottonwood Canyon State Park for students and teachers attending their Cottonwood Crossing Student Institute and Cottonwood Canyon Teacher Institute in June.

“Supporting initiatives like these reflect OBRC’s commitment to promoting environmental education, particularly in rural communities, throughout the state,” said Devon Morales, vice president of external affairs at OBRC. “We are thrilled to support Eastern Oregon University’s Teach Rural Oregon project.”

The [BottleDrop Fund](#), created in partnership with Oregon Community Foundation, supports nonprofit organizations in Oregon that are operating in the spirit of the Bottle Bill through annual grantmaking. The Fund’s priorities include litter and waste reduction, environmental conservation, environmental education, recycling, public-private partnerships that work to solve a community problem in Oregon, and skill-building and job training for low-income residents.

For more information on the Teach Rural Oregon project, visit <https://www.eou.edu/teach-rural-oregon/>.



About BottleDrop and the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative

The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative is the industry steward of Oregon’s nationally recognized beverage container redemption system and the operator of the BottleDrop network. On behalf of the beverage industry, OBRC helps Oregonians conveniently redeem and recycle more than 2 billion containers every year, dramatically reducing litter in Oregon’s special places and boosting the state’s recycling outcomes. To learn more, visit BottleDrop.com or OBRC.com

About Oregon Community Foundation

Since 1973, Oregon Community Foundation has worked to improve the lives of all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy. We partner with donors, volunteers and nonprofits to strengthen communities in every county in Oregon. OCF distributed more than \$220 million in grants and scholarships in 2024. Individuals, families, businesses and organizations can work with OCF to create charitable funds that support causes important to them. To learn more, please visit oregoncf.org.