OHSU is moving into a new era, defined by health reform and declining public resources. The era of reform will challenge our missions of education, research and patient care. But OHSU also has a fourth mission — outreach, an expression of our commitment to healing, teaching and discovery applied to the 96,000 square miles of Oregon.

FROM ENTERPRISE TO COOS BAY, PORTLAND TO KLAMATH FALLS

As the state’s major comprehensive academic health center, OHSU is committed to Oregon and has unique resources to bring to bear to improve the health and well being of Oregonians.

We are partners in more than 200 community health care programs, reaching out to vulnerable groups in urban areas as well as underserved rural communities throughout the state. These programs span our missions and provide a breadth of services that no other entity in the state can match. To cite just a few:

- **The Office of Rural Health** helps rural communities recruit and retain primary care providers and administers several tax credit programs that help keep rural health care systems viable.

- **The Oregon Rural Practice-Based Research Network** is a statewide clinical research network that extends medical research opportunities to rural communities. Recently named a Center of Excellence by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, network members include 158 clinicians at 46 practices across Oregon, providing care to more than 235,000 patients.

- **The Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs** helps build the capacity of families, providers and communities caring for children with special needs through training programs, multidisciplinary clinics, public health agencies and community planning activities.

Other programs offered by OHSU include: Traveling pediatric subspecialty clinics, workforce “pipeline” programs to develop the health care leaders of tomorrow, information resources for providers, including a physician consult service and access to OHSU library materials on-line, and information resources for members of the public, including expertise on poisons and chemicals in the workplace and environment.
Health reform will also challenge our outreach mission. The demand for everything OHSU does — patient care, education, research, community service — is expanding as public funding is contracting.

Universal access through federal health reform creates additional demands on the workforce. More providers will be needed to see newly covered patients. OHSU is developing innovative ways to train the next generation of health professionals. Part of that process includes working with our statewide partners to help identify additional training sites for the expanded class sizes made possible by the construction of the Collaborative Life Sciences Building.

Other evolving needs include the study of populations beyond the metro area to inform and validate our efforts in the areas of translational research, health systems effectiveness, and evidence-based medicine. Finally, OHSU must be part of the effort to reduce systemic costs of health care. Expanding telemedicine links and clinical affiliations can help save resources by keeping patients close to home whenever possible and clinically appropriate.

Collaboration makes the most out of limited resources. That’s why it’s embedded in our strategic vision: “OHSU will partner to make Oregon a national leader in health and science innovation for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of all Oregonians.”

We’ve seen the importance of collaboration for years in our outreach mission, with program partnerships that touch all 36 Oregon counties. In this new era, the best way to meet the growing need for services in a resource-scarce environment is to build on existing partnerships while developing new collaborations to meet changing needs.

OHSU will evolve to meet the challenges of the next five years. The 96,000 square mile span of our campus will serve not as a strain on our resources but as the source of our strength, connecting us with partners and the Oregonians we serve.