



## A Message from Nancy Bales, Executive Director of Gray Family Foundation, on the Outdoor School Grant Program



Dear Friends,

On November 8th, 2016 Oregon voters made history by passing the first citizen-initiated ballot measure in the United States to provide state-level funding to support outdoor education. The Gray Family Foundation is proud to have a long history of supporting Outdoor School in Oregon and for providing leadership throughout this campaign. We are also incredibly thankful of the tremendous role our friends, grantees, and constituents around the state played in securing this victory.

Oregon Measure 99, "Outdoor School for All," instructs our legislature to designate \$22 million from the Oregon lottery to an "Outdoor School Education Fund" to be administered by Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Services. The fund will be used to support schools and districts across the state in providing an outdoor school opportunity to the students they serve.

Over the past months, we at the Gray Family Foundation have focused our efforts on supporting OSU Extension Services putting in place the systems to ensure that they will be ready to provide funds to schools and districts for the 2017/2018 school year. We are happy to announce that we are confident that schools will be supported in their funding needs as the voters approved through OSU Extension. Therefore, Gray Family Foundation has decided to suspend our normal Outdoor School Grant program for 2017 and encourage our grantees to plan for funding through the OSU program.

We expect there will be questions and we welcome you to reach out to us at Gray Family Foundation. We will also be sharing updates through our newsletter including directions on how to apply for funds when OSU Extension announces its granting cycle. We also encourage you to follow updates directly from OSU Extension on their work at: <http://oelp.oregonstate.edu/outdoorschool>.

In addition, OSU Extension is currently setting up an Advisory Committee and Working Groups to engage diverse voices in their effort to create robust and efficient systems and guidelines. Applications to serve on those committees are currently open and we encourage you to lend your knowledge and experience to this work. You can learn more about the opportunities available and apply at: <http://oelp.oregonstate.edu/outdoorschool>. Applications must be received by March 15th to be considered.

Sincerely,