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University of Oregon Certified “Bee Campus USA” Affiliate

EUGENE, ORE. – On May 23rd, **University of Oregon** and **Bee Campus USA** announced that The University of Oregon is the 46th educational institution in the nation to be certified as an affiliate of the Bee Campus USA program, designed to marshal the strengths of educational campuses for the benefit of pollinators.

College students, faculty, administrators, and staff have long been among the nation's most stalwart champions for sustainable environmental practices. Bee Campus USA director, Phyllis Stiles says, *"Imperiled pollinators are responsible for the reproduction of ninety percent of the world's wild plant and tree species. The University of Oregon is a stellar example of the influence educational institutions can have on their students and the broader community. Their talented faculty, staff and students offer an invaluable resource for Eugene residents in seeking ways to manage ornamental landscapes in more wildlife-friendly ways."*

According to Krystal Abrams, Bee Campus - University of Oregon committee member, *"the University of Oregon has already taken steps to start conversations around decisions that would impact bee health and survival on campus."*

University of Oregon Landscaping officials take pride in the University's commitment to planting patches of native plants and minimizing hazards to pollinators by not using neonicotinoid pesticides. To raise awareness about the plight of pollinators, the University of Oregon is launching a web page to disseminate information to the campus and external communities.

University of Oregon Faculty are excited about the opportunities for student research and service-learning. According to Debbie Schlenoff, UO Bee committee member and course instructor in Conservation Biology, *"After learning about the importance of native pollinators and their alarming population declines, students were excited to make a difference this spring by removing invasive species and planting native vegetation for pollinators and our community partners were impressed by their hard work and dedication."* Over a dozen university courses include pollinators in their syllabi and Bee Campus certification will enable a multi-disciplinary approach to pollinator health.

According to Stiles, each certified campus must reapply each year and report on accomplishments from the previous year. Other institutions of higher education are invited to explore completing the application process outlined at beecampususa.org.

About Bee Campus USA and Bee City USA

The **Bee Campus USA** designation recognizes educational campuses that commit to a set of practices that support pollinators, including bees, butterflies, birds, and bats, among thousands of other species. For more information about the application process for becoming a Bee Campus USA affiliate, visit

<http://www.beecityusa.org/application-campus.html>

Bee City USA® urges local governments, individuals, organizations, corporations, and communities to promote and establish pollinator–friendly landscapes that are free of pesticides. Since its inception in Asheville, North Carolina in 2012, many cities have been certified across the nation and many others are in the process of preparing applications. For more information about the application process for becoming a Bee City USA community, visit <http://www.beecityusa.org/application-city.html>.

Call for interviews with **Krystal Abrams**, Pollinator Projects Manager: **541-465-8860** or email kabrams@beyondtoxics.org.

Beyond Toxics protects and enhances human and environmental health. We promote environmental justice engagement and community-based environmental grassroots organizing to ensure environmental protection and health for all communities. We empower communities to enact lasting solutions to environmental health threats.

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