



c/o Student Publications
PO Box 347
Portland, Oregon 97207
503-725-5687
March 12, 2010

National Freedom of Information Coalition
Missouri School of Journalism
ATTN: Denise Meyers
101D Reynolds Journalism Institute
Columbia, Mo. 65211-0012

Dear Ms. Meyers,

Attached is the grant proposal for Open Oregon, a citizen-based, educational, 501(c)(3) organization, for \$5,000 to completely and professionally revamp our web site, which was created and managed by an amateur. It is a truly old-media-style site that, while minimally serving Oregon's citizens, desperately needs to be upgraded to add many features. These include being attractive, interactive, informative and simply useful so that citizens can more easily find what they need to pursue access to public records and public meetings.

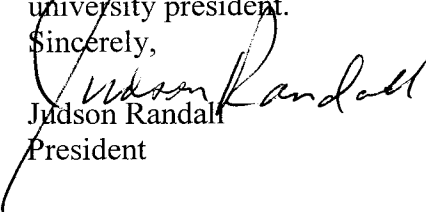
The designer will provide a custom theme design that incorporates preferred colors, appropriate photos, marketing messages and important content areas like recent news, district attorney and attorney general letter orders and blog posts. Homepage will offer specific areas for latest news, search, user-friendly navigation. RSS feed and other social sharing opportunities for news feed, blog posts, and resources, including accountability tracking of number of users. Forum included where people can post questions and get answers/feedback and be surveyed on their opinions about the site. Automated form letters similar to current site -- Record Request & Denial Appeal.

While the existing site has no mechanism to gauge the number of citizens who access it, anecdotally, several times a week, I hear from citizens and journalists who use the site's templates.

Open Oregon has been functioning for more than 15 years, helping Oregonians learn how to access public records and meetings. Among our activities during that time, we've published, with grants from the National Freedom of Information Coalition and John S. and James L Knight Foundation and in collaboration with the Oregon Attorney General's office three quick reference guides to the public records and public meetings laws. Most recently, Open Oregon is helping the Attorney General's "Government Transparency Project" by moderating six town-hall meetings with the attorney general around the state where citizens are asked to comment on how the public records and meetings laws are working -- or not.

The Open Oregon board members are from diverse areas of Oregon life. The membership includes the state and city of Portland archivists, a librarian, a national board member of the League of Women Voters, a deputy district attorney, two lawyers, a former secretary of state, a journalism dean, a former small-town mayor, the owner of a company that makes contribution and expense reports for candidates, a newspaper managing editor and the director of the state's newspaper publishers association. Honorary chairs are the current secretary of state and a former attorney general and university president.

Sincerely,


Judson Randall
President