



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OMEF Community Education Grant builds new digital anatomic dissection station at Willamette University

Salem, OR – 28 October 2021 – The Exercise and Health Science Department at Willamette University recently completed installation of a new digital anatomic dissection station, made possible by an \$8,000 grant from the Oregon Medical Education Foundation.

Anatomy is the foundational course for pre-health education and while there is no substitute for real cadavers, there are limitations. This Fall, thanks to the vision of Willamette University's (WU) Drs. Michael Lockard and Lucas Ettinger and support from the Oregon Medical Education Foundation (OMEF), students from across the Willamette Valley now have the chance to experience a high-tech, comprehensive human anatomy education.

OMEF's Board of Directors was unanimously supportive of this project for several reasons, especially WU's impressive outreach program to give local and regional high schools expanded access to pre-health education. Since 2010, they have brought over 2,000 local and regional high school students from Salem and surrounds, including New Urban Alternative School, Chemawa Indian School and Teen Parent Program of Salem-Keizer into the Anatomy Lab. "This project aligned well with our mission of inspiring young people, especially those from underserved communities, to pursue an interest in science and healthcare," says Dr. Bud Pierce, OMEF Board President. "We are proud to have played a small part in enhancing this part of their educational experience."

WU students on campus can access the Visible Body program through the high-tech touchscreen smartboard where they can zoom in, highlight, annotate and research any part of the human body; they also have 24/7 access via an app on their smartphone or mobile device. Additionally, the app's low cost – just \$25 – replaces more expensive textbooks and is affordable enough for high schools to incorporate into their lessons. The team at WU hopes local high schools can return to WU campus next Spring to experience this firsthand once pandemic restrictions ease.

For more information on this or other OMEF Community Education Grants, visit us at www.theomef.org.

Contact:

Julie Davidson, Executive Director

Phone: (503) 619-8129 | julie@theomef.org

About the Oregon Medical Education Foundation (OMEF)

OMEF exists to help set Oregon's MD, DO & PA students on a path for success through financial assistance and programs that help offset the rising cost of a medical education, tackle urgent issues such as food insecurity, wellness and burnout, and create opportunities for students to expand their professional network. We proudly partner with organizations that help inspire prospective students to pursue a career in healthcare, and others that help make public health education more widely available. OMEF is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization and was founded by the Oregon Medical Association in 1961. Visit www.theomef.org for more information or to get involved.

###

(457 words)



Photo (from left to right) of the new Digital Anatomic Dissection Station in action:

Ruth Feingold, Dean, Department of Exercise & Health Science

Michael Lockard, Ph.D.

Lucas Ettinger, Ph.D.

Erin Boers, Development

Anatomy TA student

