Welcome to crowd

Thanks for joining us

- Thanks to Dr. Andresen and Dr. Hollander Rodriguez
  - OHSU Foundation, providing leadership in raising funds in support of this project and programs.
  - recognize Board, Foundation Board, and others for leadership in making this vision a reality
  - Dr. Joe Robertson and Oregon Rural Health Initiative – partnership set up expressly to promote and further this project – visionary leadership shaping future of rural healthcare in our entire state

As John said, today’s event is intended to celebrate everything this building represents.

The Collaborative Health Center is a major investment in the future of our community and the future of the health care industry in Oregon – and especially in rural Oregon.

At $50 million, it is the second largest construction project ever in Klamath Falls, runner up to the new medical center, which opened in 2007 and is the largest ever.

This bodes well for the local economy and shows our optimism in our future.

It will support the Oregon Rural Health Initiative and will be the new home for the OHSU Campus for Rural Health.

It is a reflection of OHSU’s commitment to the entire state of Oregon.
This building and the philosophy it embraces is an investment in the future of the industry by allowing students in a variety of medical disciplines to experience the joy of delivering health care in a rural setting, where they hopefully will choose to practice.

When health care providers train in rural environments – many times, they’ve never even thought about practicing someplace not in an urban setting – when they get that rural flavor, what it’s like to contribute where they are truly needed, they often choose a rural community for their work.

Our Family Medicine Residency is a joint venture with OHSU designed to train medical providers to succeed in rural environments.

Over 60 percent of Cascades East graduates are now practicing in rural communities.

This building will help our ongoing recruiting efforts by exposing even more healthcare students to the joy that those of us who live here already recognize – of serving and practicing in a rural environment.

The Collaborative Health Center will allow Cascades East Family Medicine – which serves thousands of Klamath residents -- to expand its clinic and so help even more patients.

The building’s completion coincides with the 25th anniversary of Cascades East Family Medicine Residency program in Klamath Falls – the first OHSU program of its kind outside the Portland area.

Established in 1994 in partnership with Sky Lakes, the program has attracted more than 1,000 applicants for eight residency slots each year.

With the Oregon Rural Health Initiative, we can influence a new generation of health care providers who will not only study in Klamath Falls and other rural Oregon communities, but also will focus on the overall health of the community, and potentially may stay here.

That means we are leveraging our investments in wellness by also investing in helping to create health by improving access to services.

The Collaborative Health Center will consolidate five Sky Lakes primary care clinics on two floors to improve patient access to primary care with expanded capacity, centralized
scheduling, better cross-coverage among providers, and other features made possible by the
economy of scale, including a walk-in clinic and on-site Laboratory Services and Diagnostic
Imaging facilities - further enhancing patient convenience.

We will be able to better support patients with other support services such as nutrition
counseling, pharmaceutical counseling, and behavioral health consults, again made possible by
the economy of scale from consolidating clinics.

The Collaborative Health Center is about partnerships – not just Sky Lakes or OHSU or
Klamath Falls.

It’s about partnerships that will bring more assets into this community and make our
community and the entire state stronger – but more importantly it’s about partnerships that will
improve the health and well-being of the people we serve.

I want you all to notice the I-beam in front of me: It’s made of steel and symbolizing strength –
the strength that comes from people coming together to collaborate on something bigger and
larger than we can do individually – it’s what this community is known for – and the I-beam is
symbolic of our collective strength – so in honor of this occasion we invite board members and
all of you present here today to come forward to sign it, perhaps also leaving a message to
inspire others – symbolizing our collective collaboration to make our community and healthcare
in general stronger for all of us.

(Invite John, Joyce and Elena to be the first to sign)

Invite people to review posters (on display near the podium) that describe the building
in detail.

Warm thanks...wrap up.