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## The Story of the Division of Continuing Education / School of Extended Studies

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## The Story of the Division of Continuing Ed/School of Extended Studies

Written by Cheryl Livneh and Sherwin Davidson, with input from Cari Olmsted, Melissa Endicott, Nancy Goldman, Steve Harmon, Martha Ketcham, and Robert Mercer

As a group of us began researching the history of the General Extension Division/Oregon Division of Continuing Education/PSU Division of Continuing Education (DCE)/School of Extended Studies (SES), we were struck by the ongoing upheaval over the years. While these units developed some of the most innovative, student-centered, high-quality, and future-thinking programs, the same issues kept coming up in memo after memo, discussion after discussion, meeting after meeting, and decision after decision from the mid-1960's until SES' demise in 2012. Should the unit be state-funded or self-support? Should continuing education be centralized or the responsibility of a college or unit within a college/university? Which college, school, and/or unit should receive the Student Credit Hours generated? Who should be allowed to offer off-campus courses, non-degree programs, non-credit offerings? Who is the appropriate audience—non-degree seeking students, professionals updating their credentials, degree-seeking students, returning adults? Who should be responsible for which aspects of offering courses/programs (e.g., registration, advising students, approving instructors, approving course content)? How should faculty be paid? As Dr. Sherwin Davidson, Dean and Vice Provost of Extended Studies from 1989-2001, said, “the biggest ongoing challenge was the depth of uncertainty.”

From early memos, it appears that the mission of the General Extension Division, established in 1932 under the new State Board of Higher Education, was to provide largely remedial education. The new structure included the Portland Extension Center as well as cultural offerings through KOAC, the precursor to OPB. In its next phase, the unit became the Oregon Division of Continuing Education (OR DCE), and its principal service was on developing programs to assist educators in meeting their certification requirements. This important role continued throughout the existence of the continuing education unit, even as its roles expanded and its name changed. In 1965, the OR DCE expanded its offerings to include training for Head Start's summer program, funded by the War on Poverty legislation. By the 1970's, the statewide unit, then called the OR DCE, had expanded into serving the statewide community with even more educational, developmental, and cultural programs through a statewide reach.

From the late 1960's through the 1970's, there were continual proposals and conversations about PSU's role in continuing education and summer session. In 1969, the same year Portland State College became a university, Summer Session (SS) moved from being a state-wide enterprise to PSU offering its own Summer Session. From its inception, PSU's SS offered innovative, timely programs beginning with offerings in music, literature, and theater through Haystack Summer Programs in the Arts sited in Seaside.

Throughout the years, faculty redesigned courses that were part of the departments' 10-week curricula during the academic year to become 4-week summer intensives. SS was also known for its exceptional array of foreign language offerings, and it also offered many specialty programs, such as: Bel Canto, Chamber Music for Strings and Chamber Music for Strings (which

may have been the precursor to Chamber Music Northwest), Deutsche Sommerschule, International Visiting Professors, Kiwanis Camp for campers with disabilities, Kodaly Certificate of Completion Program, Labor Studies Institute, Overseas Programs, Peace Studies, PIPFest (Portland International Performance Festival), Sapporo SS, Self-Enhancement, Inc. Music Camp, Study Abroad, Summer Animator Intensive, Opera Program, and Tour of the World. Some of these originated in Summer Session and others enabled academic departments to creatively extend new opportunities to students, particularly performance and travel opportunities. In 2013-14, Summer Session was designated a fourth quarter and was decentralized to the academic deans, and no longer offered any of its special programs.

Throughout the 60's and 70's, "ownership" of continuing education responsibilities seems to have shifted among and between institutions, and funding models were variable. In the late 60's, PSU wanted to offer its own evening courses through an Evening College. In 1970 or 71, the Board of Higher Education authorized PSU to absorb evening credit instruction, formerly offered through the Portland Center of the OR DCE. The evening courses were eventually housed in the PSU Division of Continuing Education (DCE). Also, in 1971, the legislature decreed that the OR DCE should no longer operate with General Fund dollars. It should become totally self-support within the biennium. They provided \$500,000 for 1971-73 and mandated that it would be completely self-support by 1973-75. However, in the 1973-75 biennium, the Ways and Means Committee of the Oregon legislature appropriated another \$200,000 for the OR DCE. With the new financial limitations on the OR DCE, there was greater pressure on PSU to provide continuing education for the metro-area. In the mid-70's, at the point when PSU offered the evening classes rather than have them offered by the OR DCE, all

courses and students were identified as PSU rather than the OR DCE. Dr. Clark Spurlock coordinated all evening courses, first for the OR DCE and then PSU's DCE. There would be students (8 or more credits a quarter) and special students (those taking 1-7 credits a quarter). Discussions continued about which students were registered at the Portland Center, part of the OR DCE, and which at PSU and where the student credit hours were housed, who paid the instructors, who registered the students, etc. Also, in 1971, the PSU Faculty Senate passed a policy stating that 700-level courses are graduate courses for professional advancement and could not be used toward a graduate degree. This was a time of transition for all continuing education-related activities and personnel. In 1973, the Oregon Vice Chancellor for Higher Education outlined in a memo how and what individual campuses would be responsible for. However, even with that guidance, the conversations, often in the form of a seemingly unresolvable debate, continued for several years.

Robert Nicholas, who had worked for the OR DCE, was named Dean of the Division of Continuing Education (DCE) at PSU in the mid-1970's. Several other people also moved from the OR DCE to PSU—Donna Beattie, who became the assistant dean; Tony Midson, who managed the film library; Paul Wurm, who was the director of Correspondence Study, and there were others as well. Continuing Education was defined as any program, course, or event that was not intended for full-time day students. The definition included: evening offerings for academic credit (expectations were that given the increasing importance of evening offerings, at least 20% of students would move to academic units rather than take evening courses through DCE by 1976-7), professional advancement offerings, off-campus credit courses, degree programs designed for part-time students, coordination with other metro-area

institutions, and courses offered in a variety of experimental formats (e.g., variable instruction time like weekends, correspondence study, use of television). There was also a decision that PSU's Division of Continuing Education should be self-support.

Around the early to mid 70's, the state funded the State Technical Assistance and Training Office (STATO), which had been part of the OR DCE that had moved to PSU's DCE. Darrell Johnson was the director. In the late 70's, STATO changed its name to the Early Childhood Training Center (ECTC), as it received its first three-year federal grant for evaluation of Heads Start Programs. Cari Olmstead became director in 1976. ECTC would continue to receive this funding for years. In 1980, they received their first federal grant for Resource Access Programs, serving Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. They continued to receive funding until 2002, when the federal government no longer allowed universities to apply for these funds.

In 1978, the PSU Faculty Senate officially designated Continuing Education as a Division of the Faculty Senate, so that its staff was represented. In 1979, the Oregon State System of Higher Education officially approved that PSU's role as offering outreach (off-campus) courses and programs at locations, times, and in formats convenient to students...Continuing Education programs should be expanded with regard for professional development, career enhancement, self-enrichment, and liberal studies for mature adults."

In 1980-81, DCE was moved from the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) to the President's Office due to DCE's budgetary deficits. It was moved back to OAA the following year

In 1982, Ken Waldroff, Director of Continuing Education in the School of Education (CE/ED) moved his office out of the DCE Building to the School of Education (SOE) and became a member of the SOE Leadership Team, while continuing to report administratively to DCE. CE/ED, at the time, offered mostly cooperative credit—credit for courses and professional development offered by school districts and agencies in the metro-area, whose content and instructors were approved by SOE faculty. In 1987, upon Mr. Waldroff's retirement, Cheryl Livneh was hired as the Director of CE/ED. The Dean of the SOE, Robert Everhart, decided to go in a new direction, having CE/ED become an incubator for new programs and professional development opportunities in the metro-area. At that time, PSU DCE still offered continuing education offerings for educators outside of the metro-area, and CE/ED just in the metro-area. This was consolidated in 1989, when Terri Fogarty moved from PSU's DCE to SOE CE/ED. Over the years, CE/ED, worked with school districts, educational service districts, government and social service agencies, for-profit agencies, businesses, and institutions of higher education. In cooperation with each of these entities, CE/ED offered on-campus, off-campus, online, and regional master's degrees, licensure programs, graduate certificate programs, certificates of completion, and professional development for Pre-K through higher education educators, administrators, librarians, and human service professionals (e.g., counselors, social workers, therapists). It served as an incubator for a variety of programs formats (e.g., Friday night/Saturday programs, one-week summer programs, programs offered onsite in districts, contract courses/programs, and online offerings). All credit programs were approved by the appropriate academic department before being offered. Because of their success and relevance, over the years, many of the courses and programs became part of the School's



regular offerings. For most of its existence, CE/ED maintained a dual connection to PSU's DCE/SES and SOE, participating in service and leadership roles in both. In 2007, the entire unit was moved administratively to the SOE (now the College of Education). In 2016, CE/ED transitioned to providing recruitment, advising, and marketing for the GSE. It no longer offered continuing education. Some of the programs it offered were moved to other higher education institutions. In addition, the centers created through CE/ED: ECTC, the Center for Student Success--which provided research and consulting services to districts--and the Center for Healthy Inclusive Parenting were disbanded.

In 1983, the Professional Development Center (PDC) moved into the School of Business from the DCE Building, although as with CE/ED, retaining ties with DCE/SES. Joan Malling was the director. PDC went through many iterations also. It began by offering noncredit events, day-long series, and certificates to all sectors of the business community. The programs focused on different parts of the workforce and the business world (e.g., human resources, marketing, quality control, project management, public relations) utilizing both School of Business faculty and business experts. Over time, often in partnership with School of Business faculty, PDC developed many certificates of completion programs to meet the new needs of the business community. In 2013, it moved administratively to the School of Business Administration. PDC, renamed the Center for Executive and Professional Education, also began developing programs in specific niche areas: food industry, athletic and outdoor product management, and craft brewing. As of 2020-21, PDC/CEPE continues to offer programs at PSU, onsite at businesses, customized training, and online training.

In 1989, PSU merged DCE and SS. Charlie White, who was the director of SS retired, and the university did a national search for a Dean of Summer Session and Continuing Education. Sherwin Davidson was named dean of the combined unit. In 1990, two major changes took place. DCE was proposed as a school to the Faculty Senate, and the Senate approved it as the School of Extended Studies (SES). The Salem Center was opened on Liberty Street in Salem, a decision mandated by then PSU President, Judith Ramaley. Robert Mercer played an active role in the Salem Center development initially, and Marilyn Webb was hired as the director. Later, the Salem Center moved to the Chemeketa Community College campus. The Salem Center became a clearinghouse for a variety of PSU programs in the Salem area and worked with other higher ed institutions in the area, for example the Child Welfare Partnership in cooperation with PSU's School of Social Work. The most pervasive program which grew to also be offered at other community colleges was degree completion programs in conjunction with Chemeketa Community College, Clackamas Community College, Mt. Hood Community College, and Portland Community College. There were also several programs for educators offered at the Salem Center (e.g., administrative licensure programs, English as a Second Language endorsement), and it was the site for several statewide programs (e.g., statewide MSW, statewide MBA). The Salem Center also worked with the Native American communities.

The SES grew in terms of number of employees, breadth of programming, and variety of formats over the following years, working with other schools and colleges to offer the statewide MBA, statewide MPA, and the statewide MSW. Each of these programs depended on technological features that enabled teaching and learning at a distance, PSU's first venture into this new "territory". Program expansion also included professional development for

human service professionals, and in partnership with School of Education/Graduate School of Education, courses for degree progress, licensure, grad certificates, and certificates of completion were offered all over the state and region for educators and human service professionals. Through the Math Learning Center, also in cooperation with the SOE and the Math Department, professional development for teaching math around the country was offered. Northwest Equals, located administratively with SES, offered programs to help teachers enhance students' interest in math and science. SES also developed training programs in community development, environmental education, gardening, and photography. Through SES' SS, the Haystack and other arts programming continued, as did offerings in cooperation with many academic units. Even with all of these student-centered and community-based programs and opportunities, upheaval continued about what SES should and could offer, who received the tuition, who received the student credit hours, who approved the course content and instructors, and whether it should remain self-support or move in-load.

In 2001, Sherwin Davidson resigned as dean and vice provost and took a sabbatical, accepting a position in Psychology. SES conducted a national search over the next two years, without success over an extended period of searching. Cheryl Livneh served as interim dean from 2001-04. In 2004, Michael Burton was named Vice Provost and Dean of SES. SES program development continued, with the addition of several new programs, such as a program focusing on antiques from the Antique Roadshow and through connections Mike Burton had through his previous work in government. There had been years of discussion about moving some of the units out of SES to the school or college where it was housed. As noted earlier, in 2007, CE/ED was moved administratively to the Graduate School of Education. CE/ED tuition had been a

large portion of the SES revenue, so it significantly affected SES' bottom line. Approximately in 2010, the University changed the financial status of SES and CE/ED. All of the tuition that came into the University stayed with the University budget, and SES submitted a budget to the University, requesting funding. Although the SES budget always had to be approved by OAA, applying to PSU for funds to operate was a new practice. A year or two later, PSU's VP's for Finance and Administration and its Provost moved all credit activities previously affiliated with SES to be in-load (state funded) programs. That made those activities more difficult to sustain, since when the University had budget cuts, it cut SES positions rather than faculty positions. Mike Burton left PSU in 2012. Keven Reynolds, the Vice President for Finance and Administration, became the interim dean. By then almost all of SES' special programs had ended. In 2013-14, Summer Session was moved to the portfolios of each of the academic deans to be treated as a fourth quarter. The Extended Campus Program was also moved to the academic deans. Independent Study was closed. The University/Faculty Senate eliminated the School of Extended Studies in April, 2013. The only two units remaining from the previous structure were CE/ED in the Graduate School of Education, which was transformed into a support unit doing recruitment, marketing, and providing some student services (no continuing education activities) and the Professional Development Center, which moved to the School of Business. It changed its name to the Center for Executive Professional Education (CEPE) and continues to offer continuing professional development to the business community.