

## **SOU and eastern Oregon connect in Pendleton**

Southern Oregon University carried its colors to eastern Oregon last week as part of the 2026 Pendleton Round-Up, one of Oregon's signature traditions and a gathering that brings together communities, leaders and visitors from across the state. Marc Overbeck, SOU Director of Government Relations, represented the university in the Round-Up Parade, proudly marching with an SOU pennant and showcasing the university's colors along the parade route. During the week, Overbeck also participated in both the Governor's Luncheon and the Blue Mountain Community College Luncheon, providing opportunities to strengthen SOU's relationships with higher education colleagues, community leaders and elected officials from across Oregon.

SOU also joined Oregon's other regional universities—EOU and WOU—in co-hosting a reception during Round-Up week, bringing together university alumni, community partners and public officials. Among those attending was Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read, along with other state and local leaders. The reception provided an informal setting to highlight the important role Oregon's regional universities play in their communities and to reinforce SOU's commitment to building relationships and partnerships well beyond southern Oregon. SOU's presence at the Pendleton Round-Up offered another opportunity to demonstrate that, while our campus is rooted in Ashland and the Rogue Valley, our connections—and our commitment to serving Oregon—extend statewide.