



JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
Governor

Greetings:

On behalf of the people of Oregon, it gives me great pleasure in welcoming competitors and spectators to the 28th Annual Northwest Karate Classic Championship being held at Mt. Hood Community College. We are thrilled to share the wonderful aspects of our state during this momentous occasion and eagerly applaud the training and dedication that all 600 athletes have undergone in order to compete. Having trained in martial arts myself, I have a genuine appreciation for the skills, focus, stamina and strength that are required to progress in this sport. The confidence and leadership developed by each student not only serves him or her well as a top competitive athlete, but also provides necessary skills to overcome challenges throughout their lives.

During your stay in Oregon, it is my hope that you find time to relax and discover why this state is one of the friendliest and most beautiful places in the world. We are proud of our natural diversity ranging from the high desert of eastern Oregon and the Cascade Mountains to the temperate rainforest, lush Willamette Valley, Columbia Gorge and scenic coastline. Oregon offers beauty and serenity to everyone who visits our great state.

Once again, I welcome and congratulate the competitors at this year's event and wish them success in their matches and future endeavors. This championship will inspire children and adults alike, demonstrating the positive effects of discipline, respect and hard work, while providing scholarship funds to young athletes. With this in mind, here's hoping your event is a huge success and that it results in turning the dreams of our hopeful youth into reality.

And last, but not least, my respect and appreciation goes out to Junki Yoshida – my sensei, dear friend and “occasional” mentor. Good luck with creating the best tournament ever!

Sincerely,

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor