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Testimony/Correspondence in support of HB 2958
House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee
March 20, 2013

Chair Dembrow and members of the committee:

North Clackamas Schools are proud of their ongoing relationships with Clackamas Community College and other community colleges serving our students.

Students benefit from those relationships not only by receiving information about community colleges, but also through programs and experiences that help them engage the college life while still in high school.

One of our principals, Karen Phillips of the Sabin Schellenberg Professional Technical Center collaborates with three community colleges and says they are all a phone call away. She emphasizes that high school students who learn about and take advantage of dual credit courses begin to see themselves in college.

Some examples of the relationship:

- We have dozens of articulated courses that offer community college credit on our campuses.
- Clackamas Community College hosts an annual event featuring a seminar for English Language Learners, a career fair, a seminar to plan next steps, and a skills competition that brings students onto the college campus to demonstrate learned skills and compete for scholarship opportunities
- CCC representatives meet with students and families on our high school campuses throughout the year in small groups, at large college evening fairs, open houses, and help them register during class and explain the value of dual credit

- ASPIRE coordinators are available on some of our high school campuses to train volunteers and to meet with students about college planning
- Clackamas Community College facilitates meetings countywide where high school and college instructors align curriculum and assessments. They help determine how Perkins funds are spent in the county by participating in the county Perkins Consortium.
- CCC provides the Compass test to students in our teen parent program. Teen parents find the events at the college especially valuable and timely.
- Instructors from three nearby community colleges serve on the advisory boards for the programs at the Sabin Schellenberg Center. They provide input and insight in the curriculum to help students be college and career ready.

These stellar relationships with our community colleges begin with effective one-way and two-way communications and direct relationships with students and wind up saving parents hundreds of thousands of dollars in dual credit tuition.

If this bill can help other districts develop this same level of support for students and not take away from the models we have been able to develop, we encourage this committee to support the bill.

Thank you very much. If you are in North Clackamas County sometime, we hope you will stop by and visit our Sabin Schellenberg Career Technical Center. Our relationship with community colleges is only one of the reasons it is the premiere facility of its type in the state.

Submitted by
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