



Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee
Tiffany Dollar, Associated Students of Portland State University President
Re: CCWD Budget

Good morning Co-Chairs Komp and Monroe and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. For the record, my name is Tiffany Dollar and I am speaking on behalf of the Oregon Student Association. I have the honor to serve as the Student Body President at PSU. I am here today to advocate for a reinvestment in our Oregon community colleges. OUS participation of Oregon high school graduates peaked at 24 percent in 2001, and has since declined to 19 percent.¹ If we hope to reach 40-40-20 we need to do more for non-traditional students and Oregon families. After starting my college career at Portland Community College, I graduated from Clackamas with my AAOT before transferring to PSU. My educational experience as a first-generation, returning student has informed my view on this issue. If it weren't for the accessibility of community college I would not be where I am today.

Community colleges are the most likely access points for students from traditionally underrepresented communities. These are Oregon's most price sensitive populations, and they have faced on average 30 percent tuition increases during the recession. OSA recognizes their importance within the pre-k-20 pipeline. Oregon community college transfers who transferred with Associate's degrees graduated at a rate of 65 percent after three years at a public university.²

Portland State serves more Oregon community college transfers than any other OUS institution. The number of new undergraduate transfers coming into PSU has nearly doubled since 2001, keeping pace with the total entering the system while more traditional

¹ Oregon University System Factbook 2012, http://www.ous.edu/sites/default/files/dept/ir/reports/fb2010/2012_Fact_Book.pdf, page 38.

² Idib., 52. (PSU New Undergraduate Transfers From OR CCs in 2001-02, and 2011-12 respectively were 1,383 and 2,730. UO New Undergraduate Transfers From OR CCs in 2001-02, and 2011-12 respectively were 843 and 890.)

campuses like UO have remained stagnant.³

I believe this is because of the things PSU is doing to support our nontraditional student population, we need to be supporting community college students in this way as well. Unfortunately, due to limited resources PSU—and colleges around the state—still has a long way to go in supporting all of the students in need. Students on university and community college campuses across Oregon took time during the first week of classes and called into your offices yesterday to talk about this very issue. The sheer volume of these calls shows how widely this issue is felt. Our students are taking on ever increasing debt loads in hopes of paving the way for a better future for their families, and for Oregon. Please acknowledge students' investments in the state by reinvesting in CCWD with \$510 million. Thank again for this opportunity to testify. I am available to answer any questions you have.

³ Idib., 41.