

From: **Susan Anderson** <[susan.anderson8@gmail.com](mailto:susan.anderson8@gmail.com)>

Date: Wed, Apr 3, 2013 at 3:17 PM

Subject: community college funding

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TO: Joint Committe on Ways and Means

FROM: Susan Anderson, SWOCC Board

RE: Community College Funding

Unfortunately, due to the schedule change of the hearing I was unable to attend the public hearing today. I do want to express my concern for the level of funding currently proposed for community colleges. While I realize that unlike k-12 we have the ability to raise funds by increasing tuition, there comes a time when that is no longer an option and we're beyond that time. We had to raise tuition for this year by 6%--well over the cost of living--and fee increases were even worse. The result of that increase was a decrease in student population. This hardly helps the state meet its goal of 40-40-20 and would result in a loss of funding for SOCC because we didn't retain in accordance with our compact goals under the current plans of the Oregon Education Investment Board.

At 428 million we will have to increase tuittion and fees again and will not be able to do anything to help meet 40-40-20 or provided addtional resources or opportunities for students. We will have yet another stagnant year in programs--in fact may still lose some. If we received 450 million, we can avoid tuition increases, but make no real progress toward creating programs to meet 40-40-20 or meet the needs of local employers. To simply equal the increase given to k-12 we'd receive 457 million which would be survivable. Sadly, in order to meet the requirements of our compact and to set us on a path toward meeting 40-40-20 we'd need 500 million in funding this budget cycle. Given what I know about the state's budget situation, the 500 million is out of the question. but I urge you to at the VERY LEAST meet the 450 million.

To see that tax estimates already show we'll be beyond the early estimates at a level resulting in kickers coming into play, it is ridiculous to short fund important areas like education on any level as we need strong educational opportunities to further increase business success and job creation.

There are many calls for addtional funding in a time of limited resources, but we need to keep our eye on the areas that actually generate additional tax revenue and provide a service that will reduce the need for other services in the long run.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.