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February 6, 2013

Oregon House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development  
 900 Court Street NE  
 Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Dembrow and Committee Members:

This letter responds to questions raised by Committee Members during the February 4, 2013 hearing. Responses are listed below each question:

- *Representative Gallegos: To what degree do Oregon community colleges work with the military and veterans?*

The colleges work closely with veterans to help them transition as seamlessly as possible to civilian life, especially in the areas affecting their educational pursuits. A few examples include: Campus Financial Aid Officers assist with the processing of veterans education benefits; colleges use the American Council on Education (ACE) Military Guide to make college credit recommendations for formal education and training courses offered by all branches of the military; and many campuses have Veterans Resource Centers to provide a safe space for veteran peer networking support services and resources to improve the student veteran's successful transition and integration into the educational world.

In the last biennium, there were seven Campus Veterans' Service Officers shared among the community colleges and the universities to support veterans and their families/survivors attending colleges throughout Oregon, assisting them in obtaining various veterans benefits entitled to them (healthcare, compensation claims, VA home loans, etc.). These Campus VSOs were eliminated in this biennium. HB 2160 was introduced in this session to appropriate funding to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to fund this resource again in 2013-15.

- *Representative Greenlick: What is the impact of the PERS increase on community colleges?*

PERS rates increases for 2013-2015 will have a significant impact on community college budgets. Community colleges are in the State and Local Government Rate Pool (SLGRP) and will see rate increases of nearly 5% of payroll. This increase accounts for more than \$40 million in additional PERS costs statewide, which is larger than the \$33 increase in the GRB.

- *Do Oregon community colleges have apprenticeship programs with unionized workplaces (Rep. Greenlick)*

Construction Trades General Apprenticeship, Electrician Apprenticeship, and Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology Apprenticeship programs are offered by thirteen community colleges:

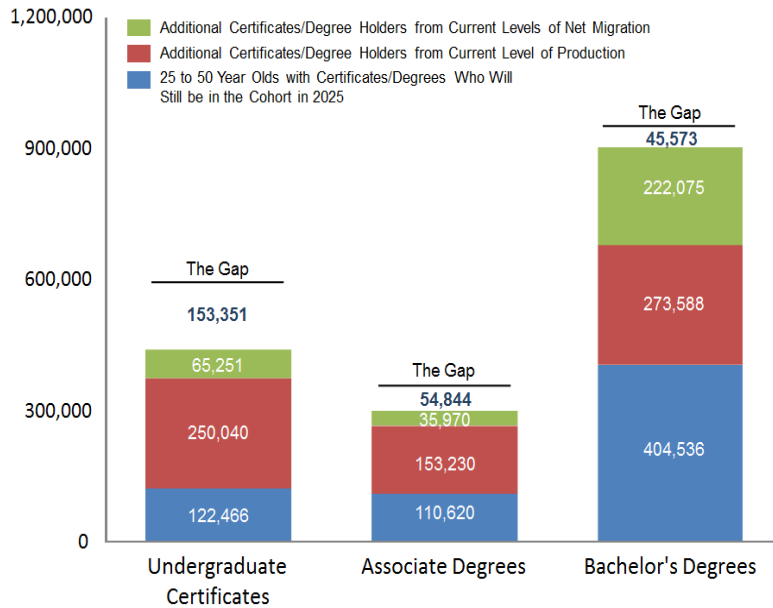
Blue Mountain	Central Oregon	Chemeketa
Clackamas	Clatsop	Klamath
Lane	Linn-Benton	Mount Hood
Portland	Rogue	Tillamook Bay
Umpqua		

All three programs are not offered by all thirteen colleges, but all lead to an Associates of Applied Science. Several of the thirteen colleges also offer related certificates.



- *Representative Dembrow: Where is Oregon in terms of the accomplishing the middle 40 of the 40-40-20 goal?*

**The GAPS - Additional Certificates and Degrees  
Needed by 2025 to Meet the 40-40-20 Goal**



- *Representative Whisnant: Is there a program whereby the University of Oregon is awarding associate's degrees?*

The program being referenced is called Project Oregon Reverse Transfer (PORT). PORT is collaboration between the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) and the Oregon University System (OUS). Reverse transfer recognizes students' achievements with an associate's degree after they have transferred to a 4-year school and have accumulated the credits needed to fulfill the 2-year degree program requirements. Oregon received a 2-year, \$450,000 grant from the Lumina Foundation to implement reverse transfer practices in 10 Oregon community colleges and all seven OUS institutions. The project was officially launched in October 2012 and while the awarding of associate's degrees has already begun, CCWD and OUS plan to have an update for the committee on credentials awarded at the end of the 2012-13 academic year. The two year reverse transfer degrees will be awarded by the community colleges.

Sincerely,

Camille Preus  
Commissioner