

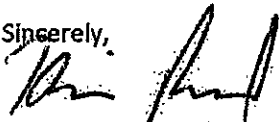
An Open Letter to the City of Hillsboro and Beaverton

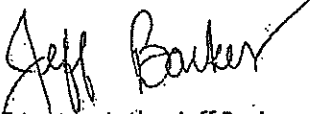
Dear Mayor Jerry Willey & Mayor Dennis Doyle,

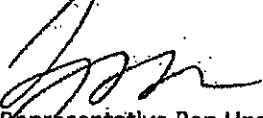
We would like to offer our congratulations to the cities of Beaverton and Hillsboro on the recent adoption of the matching funds to support Portland Community College students through Future Connect. This program is a unique partnership wherein city government, Portland Community College, and the philanthropic community through the PCC Foundation, together make college education a reality for our high school graduates who might not otherwise have access to this crucial next step. With your commitment, one hundred initial Washington County students will join the ranks of the nearly 600 low-income, first-generation college students from Multnomah County receiving college scholarship and success programs from Future Connect.

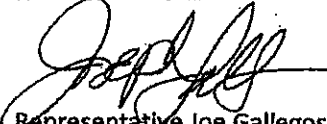
As members in the Oregon Legislature who represent families in our shared communities, we appreciate the commitment that Beaverton and Hillsboro have demonstrated to providing students from Washington County access to this innovative program. The aspirational goal of reaching 40/40/20 attainment for education requires all of us to think differently about providing access and success to students of all ages and life experience. We appreciate the commitment demonstrated by you and your City Councils.

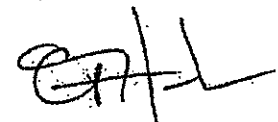
Sincerely,


Representative Tobias Read
House District 27

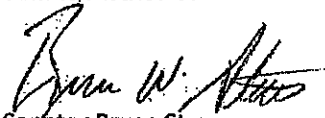

Representative Jeff Barker
House District 28



Representative Ben Unger
House District 29


Representative Joe Gallegos
House District 30


Representative Chris Harker
House District 34


Senator Mark Hass
Senate District 14


Senator Bruce Starr
Senate District 15


Senator Elizabeth Steiner-Hayward
Senate District 17

CC: Hillsboro City Council Members: Darell Lumaco, Megan Braze, Aron Carleson, Olga Acuña, Fred Nachtigal, Steve Callaway; Beaverton City Council Members: Cate Arnold, Betty Bode, Ian King, Marc-San Soucie, Mark Fagin.



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

February 26, 2014

Senator Rod Monroe, Co-Chair
Representative Betty Komp, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room H-170
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 4116A

Dear Co-Chairs Monroe and Komp and Members of the Committee:

We write to offer our support for HB 4116A, which funds Aspirations to College pilot programs. Affordable and accessible higher education is a major driver and sustainer of a diversified and healthy economy and citizenry.

HB 4116A supports competitive grant pilot projects for community colleges throughout the state. These projects provide access and support to students from low-income families and first-generation college students. By starting in high school with early support and training, these programs have a proven track record as evidenced by Portland Community College's (PCC) Future Connect.

The City of Portland provides financial support to Future Connect that is matched by private foundation resources and has been tremendously popular. Every year, PCC's Future Connect provides a path to higher education for 200 low-income and first-generation college students in Multnomah County. Future Connect invests in students' success by providing scholarship money, college success coaches, career guidance classes, college orientations, and access to internships and workshops. Over 70 percent of participating students continue to their second year of college.

Programs like Future Connect and the Aspirations to College pilot programs set students up for success and make higher paid skilled employment attainable for a new generation of Oregonians. We respectfully urge your support for HB 4116A.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Steve Novick
Commissioner



February 5, 2014

The Honorable Chris Harker
House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 4116 Relating to the assistance for community college students

Dear Chair Harker and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development:

I am writing in support of HB 4116, a bill which I believe supports a vitally important opportunity to increase college attendance and success among historically under-educated communities.

My interest in this bill derives from the prior success in Portland, and extremely promising early results in Beaverton, of the Portland Community College Future Connect program. Beaverton dedicated \$100,000 of general fund monies, matched by private donations raised by the PCC Foundation, to enable 50 low-income and first-in-family high school graduates in Beaverton to attend PCC tuition-free, with hands-on success coaching before and during their studies.

Beaverton has been contributing general fund monies to social services causes for quite some time, generally in the range of \$250,000 to \$300,000 per year. We have a long-established Social Service Funding Committee which reviews grant applications and recommends awards to the City Council. Our contribution to PCC Future Connect was in addition to our annual grant program.

I hope that Beaverton will repeat this contribution and help another 50 students enter college next year with aspirations and support. The PCC Future Connect program provides more than just tuition, more than just an education for each individual. Besides the coaching and mentoring that help each individual succeed, it helps establish a culture of education in each family that sends a student to PCC to begin life as a college-educated adult. That culture of education magnifies the effect of the program, touching siblings, cousins, parents, friends, and increases the probability that more students will aspire to and reach for a college education. This is a broad, long-lasting community benefit we should celebrate and work to expand.

I think we all know people who were first-in-family college attendees. My parents are two such people. I grew up assuming college would be an option. How many high school students have never made that assumption, have never thought that they might have the opportunity?

Programs such as PCC Future Connect, programs that could be funded by the systems described in HB 4116, can provide that opportunity to many more students than cities such as Beaverton can do on our own. I would encourage you to support this bill, and provide substantial state funding for the programs across the state that can create new dreams and new opportunities that will benefit all of us for years to come.

Let's keep expanding the culture of education in Oregon.

Thank you,

Marc San Soucie
Beaverton City Councilor
msansoucie@beavertonoregon.gov



February 25, 2014

Senator Rod Monroe, Co-Chair
Representative Betty Comp, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 4116 A

Dear Co-Chairs Monroe and Komp and Members of the Committee:

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Let's keep expanding the culture of education in Oregon.

Thank you,

Marc San Soucie
Beaverton City Councilor
msansoucie@beavertonoregon.gov

Joint Ways and Means – Education Subcommittee

February 26, 2014

Testimony in Support of House Bill 4116

Dr. Jeremy Brown

President, Portland Community College

Dear Co-Chair Monroe and Co-Chair Komp -

On behalf Portland Community College, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 4116. I also want to thank Representative Gallegos, Representative Parrish and Representative Fagan for their co-sponsorship of the bill. PCC is excited about the Legislature's 40/40/20 educational vision for Oregon. Restoration of funding from the Governor's Recommended Budget for the Aspirations to College Program will assist in achieving that inspiring and audacious goal.

You know well that our state's economic strength and vitality depend on educating and developing a talented pool of diverse and skilled workers connected to, and engaged with, our community. Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce predicts that by 2020, 70% of jobs in Oregon will require postsecondary education.

Modeled on best practices at PCC and other colleges, the Future Connect Program provides recent high school graduates with a scholarship to PCC, but more even important, students receive a minimum of two years of individualized academic advising and personalized coaching - key factors in contributing to a high student success rate. PCC's Future Connect program, with its career counseling, academic advising, internships, and other career development opportunities, is a remarkable case study for Oregon's educational attainment and economic development strategy. An investment from the State legislature in programs like this would allow this program to spread across the region and to other communities across Oregon.

Future Connect launched in fall 2011 with a group of 150 Multnomah County students. Since then, the program has enrolled over 600 students. In fall 2013, the program expanded to include recent high school graduates from Beaverton and Hillsboro. Future Connect works with students with significant barriers to college access and success: 90 percent are low-income; 56 percent have household incomes less than \$20,000. Eighty-three percent of Future Connect students will be the first in their families to complete college; 70 percent are students of color. Future Connect's unique combination of financial and student support helps them overcome these challenges: Future Connect students in solid academic standing are retained at rates 3

times higher than similar students who do not receive the specialized services that Future Connect provides.

At a cost of only about \$2,000 per year per student, Future Connect ensures that young people who might not otherwise be able to attend a post-secondary institution will earn a certificate or degree that will help them contribute to our community in even greater ways. Funds allocated to the program from the Cities of Hillsboro, Beaverton, and Portland cover half the cost of the program and are matched by funds from PCC and funds raised by the PCC Foundation from corporations, foundations and individual donors. Here is just a short list of some of the organizations that are financial supporting the program, leveraging our public investment: The GAP, Hillsboro Aviation, Hoffman Construction, Howard S. Wright Construction, NW Natural, PGE Foundation, US Bank, Meyer Memorial Trust, and The Oregon Community Foundation.

Since its launch, more than \$1.1 million in private funds have been raised for the first four cohorts of Future Connect. Few investments in education deliver this type of return.

Not every community across Oregon has the ability to leverage local investment at this scale, but with assistance from the state legislature – this type of program could be scaled to provide college students across the state with opportunities to succeed. Attached to my testimony are some details on the program, as well as recent media coverage from Beaverton and Hillsboro.

I urge you to support HB4116 so that we can not only create “aspirations” to college, but so that we can also increase college attainment throughout our state. Thank you for your commitment to community colleges and the important role we play in achieving the state’s educational vision.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room D
Salem, OR 97301

February 10, 2014

Chair Harker and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today – over the last two years, I know you have heard a lot about this concept. As a reminder, HB 4116 seeks to establish the Aspirations to College Program and restore funding for community college grants throughout the state.

In the 2013-15 Governor's recommended budget, over \$70 million was identified for strategic investments in education. Last session, bipartisan support passed HB 3232 and HB 3233 to create those strategic investments - which allocated \$2.5 million dollars for Community Colleges and Workforce Development including the Aspirations to College program. At the end of last session, the investments that we unanimously supported went unfunded and community colleges in our communities didn't receive a single dime.

The Aspirations to College bill requests a funding restoration of 1.5 million dollars to be used for higher education and workforce development pilot programs across Oregon.

These funds will be allocated through a *pilot project* for the remainder of 2013-15 biennium to create a competitive grant program available to community colleges throughout the state that provide access and support to students from low-income and first generation college communities. The goal is to leverage our state investment by partnering with local business communities, the philanthropic community, and local governments to provide these students a chance not only to *go* to college, but be supported with the tools they need to succeed and thrive.

This past fall in Washington County, the Future Connect Program which is sponsored by Portland Community College and their partnership with the cities of Beaverton and Hillsboro supported a cohort of approximately 100 students through their first semester of college, and has helped them plan for the terms ahead. Students are guided through the FAFSA process; they're required to take a college success; and work one-on-one with a college success coach. After their first semester, both cities' programs have a combined 97% retention rate. That is remarkable. We have to create more opportunities like this across the state, so students from not just my district, but from districts across the state, can work for the tools to succeed.



JOSEPH GALLEGOS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 30



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

I've been working with the Department of Community College and Workforce Development and have introduced a -1 amendment that would allow them to turn considerations for competitive grants around as quickly as possible. Our goal here is to make sure the concept doesn't get bogged down in complicated rule-making as the Higher Education Coordinating Commission gets to work. The amendment language would allow maximum flexibility with very sufficient agency oversight.

From personal experience, I know how daunting it is to navigate higher education - half the battle is figuring out the system. Having support systems committed to your success is vital to the success of students. That is what Aspirations to College is looking to do in communities across the state.

As a professor and an administrator of academic programs, I know from personal and professional experience that these students need more than just recruitment and financial aide. For their success, there must be social support systems in place, as well as, supportive programs and faculty. The Aspirations to College Bill provides this wrap-around approach for students.

To do right by students throughout the state we need to think differently about how we're developing skills and providing critical services to a new generation of students. Now, more than ever, it needs to be our economic imperative that the next generation of Oregonians has access to college and to the workforce training skills to help our communities thrive, in order to cultivate a more prosperous Oregon.

Most Sincerely,

Representative Joe Gallegos





Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.302.9725/F 503.473.8519
Email: oaco.mail@state.or.us

Testimony in Favor of HB4116A
Joint Committee On Ways and Means
March 3, 2014

Co-Chairs Senator Devlin and Representative Buckley and members:

The Oregon Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA) and on Black Affairs (OCBA) strongly support HB 4116A which provides grants to Community Colleges for grow participation of underserved students.

The OCAPIA and OCBA know from the collective experience of our commissioners and the people we serve that nothing in this life matters more than the opportunity to be educated. Establishing grant programs to community colleges to increase the number of underserved, first generation and low income students is one of the best investments the State of Oregon can make in its future.

Many who finish community colleges start or buy existing businesses, transfer to four year institutions of higher learning and become pillars in their communities. Students in community college who receive financial support tend to complete college at a higher rate than those students for whom money is a constant challenge. Supporting students in their drive to finish their CC degrees with counselling and financial support is the proven way to build thriving communities of color.

Passing this legislation in 2014 gives Oregon the opportunity to grow its commitment to great education for all Oregonians at a critical time. Thank you for your positive consideration of HB 4116A.

Sincerely,

Stephen Ying
Chair, Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

James I Manning Jr.
Chair, Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

OR Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Stephen Ying, Chair
Mari Watanabe, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Michael Dembrow
Rep. Gene Whisnant

OR Commission on Black Affairs

James I. Manning Jr., Chair
James Morris, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Rod Monroe
Rep. Lew Frederick

OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Alberto Moreno, Chair
John Haroldson, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Chip Shields
Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson

OR Commission for Women

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair
Jeanne Burch, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Monnes Anderson
Rep. Betty Komp

Staff

Lucy Baker, Administrator
Nancy Kramer, Executive Assistant



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.302.9725
Email: oaco.mail@state.or.us
Website: www.oregon.gov/Hispanic

OCHA Testimony in Favor of HB4116A
Joint Committee On Ways and Means
March 3, 2014

Co-Chairs Senator Devlin and Representative Buckley and members:

The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) is urging you to approved HB 4116 which provides grants to Community Colleges for tuition support of underserved students.

There are over 452,000 Latinos in Oregon and many of the brightest Latino students will not be able to afford the tuition at four year universities. It is essential that HB 4116 receive a hearing in 2014 if we want to assure progress this year to ensure that our children can bring their talents into Oregon's higher education system. Community Colleges are often the only option for Latino and other underrepresented children. Creating tuition grants for these students ensures that our future workforce is representative of Oregon's rich diversity. We believe that this bill would create career pathways which make our communities and Oregon a more productive state in which to live and work.

We urge your positive vote on this keystone bill for access to education.

Sincerely,

Alberto Moreno, Chair

**Oregon Commission on
Hispanic Affairs**

Chair:

Alberto Moreno

Vice Chair:

John Haroldson

Commissioners:

Andrea Cano
Gilbert Carrasco
Cynthia Gomez
Lupita Maurer
Judith Parker
Carlos Perez
Santiago Ventura

Legislative Liaisons:

Sen. Chip Shields
Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson

Staff:

Lucy Baker, Administrator
Nancy Kramer, Exec. Asst.

AFT-Oregon Testimony in Support of HB 4116

The American Federation of Teachers-Oregon represents over 12,000 members across the state. Our members work in the private and public sectors in elementary and high schools, child care centers, and community colleges and four-year colleges.

Earlier generations of Oregonians knew the promise of affordable and accessible post-secondary education for every student. The members of AFT-Oregon believe we need to reclaim that promise. As state support for colleges and universities has declined, tuition has risen, and this has left students assuming unreasonable levels of debt to attend college and, even worse, prevented many from enrolling altogether. We have to relieve the costs of post-secondary education that have been shifted onto students and families across the country and across Oregon. In our state, we have to reclaim the promise made to everyone in Oregon, regardless of race, gender, or economic means, to have the opportunity to go to college and succeed in their careers and their lives. We have to support diverse institutions that provide a rich educational environment for all students. We have to ensure that, as Oregon works towards our 40/40/20 goals that no student is left out. That is the promise that has led our members to dedicate themselves to education.

House Bill 4116 works towards all of these goals. By focusing resources on increasing the number of underserved, low-income and first-generation college-bound students who enroll in community college, we are making sure that more of Oregon's students are able to fulfill their post-secondary aspirations. We urge you to support House Bill 4116.



Cynthia Rauscher, President

Angela Fouquette, Public Policy Chair

Marcia Kelley, Public Policy Advocate

Contact: aauworlobby@gmail.com

HB 4116-A

Committee on Ways and Means, Education Subcommittee

Co-Chairs Monroe and Komp and members of the committee

AAUW of Oregon supports any efforts to aid students in obtaining an education to create economic stability for themselves and their families.

While AAUW focuses on women and their educational achievements many of the issues that impact women in community colleges apply to both sexes and those who are from under represented classes in our educational system.

Our national researchers released a report last spring focusing on Women in Community Colleges that addressed challenges facing women students in community colleges. It highlights some of the issues especially difficult for students who are attending part time and are parents.

While the report also speaks to the challenges of getting women into STEM fields it also speaks to issues surrounding counseling and other supports that can help student success.

One of the resources that the report contains is the 5 pages of bibliography of the research available. Our researchers are also available for questions.

I have provided the committee with the electronic executive summary of the report in electronic version. The full report is available on our national website at www.aauw.org.

Thank you for your interest in this issue and the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.