

February 25, 2015

Representative Tobias Read  
Chair, House Committee on Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development  
900 Court Street NE H-286  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Read:

As Vice President of The Alliance, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 2728. The Oregon Talent Council (OTC) would create a much-needed strategic connection between education and industry for the purpose of talent development.

The Alliance represents 18 of Oregon's regionally accredited, nonprofit private higher education institutions. Together, Alliance colleges and universities enroll more than 35,000 students and deliver approximately 30% of all baccalaureate degrees and higher awarded in Oregon.

In Fall 2014, Oregonians accounted for 43% of the total undergraduate enrollment at Alliance colleges and universities and 12% of all first time students enrolled at an Alliance college or university previously attended an Oregon Community College.

Together, Alliance colleges and universities enroll 19% of Oregon's undergraduate students, award 23% of Oregon's undergraduate degrees and confer 24% of the bachelor's degrees awarded to minority students in the state. One in five students attending Alliance colleges and universities is a student of color. 59% of students that attend Alliance colleges & universities graduate in four years, the highest baccalaureate graduation rate in the state, saving students time and money.

As President Large reported to you in committee testimony on February 20, we are a contributing partner in the state's effort to achieve its 40-40-20 education attainment goal and are doing so through a select number of highly intentional strategic initiatives. These initiatives, reaffirmed by The Alliance Board of Trustees in March of 2012 intersect the needs of the public good, Alliance colleges and universities collectively, and business/industry to create real solutions that build a more educated and skilled workforce for Oregon.

At present, The Alliance is focused on two strategic initiatives:

- Collaborative programs to increase student access and success.
- Collaborative programs to support talent development and the transition from education to careers.

The goals and objectives of the Oregon Talent Council align with The Alliance's strategic initiatives and would enable Oregon's private nonprofit colleges and universities to participate in a statewide effort to build a skilled talent pipeline that serves an array of industries. Our participation would enhance OTC's efficiency and scope through sharing and collaboration.

Together, the private nonprofit sector offers degrees in more than 240 fields of study. These fields of study include: Engineering, Computer Science, and Health Professions among others.

The Alliance campuses award high percentages of degrees in Oregon particularly relevant to the state's needs:

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|--|-----|-----|
| • All Core STEM  | 21% |     |
| ○ Men (% of Oregon's Core STEM Bachelor Degrees Awarded)                       |     | 17% |
| ○ Women (% of Oregon's Core STEM Bachelor Degrees Awarded)                     |     | 30% |
| ○ Domestic Minorities (% of Oregon's Core STEM Bachelor Degrees Awarded)       |     | 26% |
| ○ Domestic Minorities Men (% of Oregon's Core STEM Bachelor Degrees Awarded)   |     | 21% |
| ○ Domestic Minorities Women (% of Oregon's Core STEM Bachelor Degrees Awarded) |     | 34% |
| • Mathematics & Statistics   | 30% |     |
| • Biology & Biological Sciences  | 28% |     |
| • Physical Sciences  | 37% |     |
| • Health Professions   | 35% |     |
| • Business Management, Finance & Marketing                                     | 24% |     |

**Graduate Statistics from:**

University of Portland Engineering & Computer Science

- 75% four-year graduation rate
- 63% employed in Oregon
- 80% employed
- 27% pursue a graduate degree
- 91% pass the Fundamentals of Engineering exam
- 70% complete internship program
- 23% complete a global experience program
- 33% underrepresented minorities
- 28% women
- 100% complete an capstone project with industry focus

George Fox University Engineering & Computer Science

- 70% completed internships prior to graduation
- 100% pass rate for the Fundamentals of Engineering exam (2010-14)
- 100% acceptance to graduate programs
- 100% employment within 6 months of graduation
- 90% employed in Oregon

Examples in ways Oregon's private nonprofit colleges and universities are responding in a relevant manner to the needs of Oregon industry:

University of Portland

- Developing a 4+1 Master's Degree in Biomedical Engineering with OHSU
- Offers a Master in Engineering (similar to MBA) with a focus on retraining science students into engineering

George Fox University

- Power/Energy Vision  
Renewable power and optimizing power systems
- Cybersecurity Vision  
Bridges CS, Information Systems & Computer Engineering
- Internet of Things  
Arduino platform with integrated chips moving toward professional assembly at Fab lab for microprocessors
- GFU Development of T Shaped Employees  
Focus on multi-discipline communication, collaboration, and hands-on experiences design to stretches students to "figure it out"

Thank you for your consideration of HB2728. We enthusiastically support the policy included in this bill and look forward to collaborating with stakeholders to help achieve the objectives of the Oregon Business Plan and the state's 40-40-20 education attainment goals.

Sincerely,



Brent Wilder  
Vice President