

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee  
FROM: Julie Murray-Jensen, Vice President of External Programs  
DATE: March 12, 2015  
RE: SB 213: Early Learning Hubs

Greetings from Klamath Community College (KCC). My name is Julie Murray-Jensen, Vice President of External Programs. I am writing to submit testimony in support of SB 213. SB 213 to make the Early Learning Hubs permanent and continue the work local communities have undertaken to align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten. I submit this letter with the following in mind:

- The cognitive and social/emotional skills that we know are critical to a child's future learning begin forming well before they enter kindergarten. Interventions to address skill gaps later in a child's life can certainly be successful, but they are more costly and often less effective. The Perry study has researched that. We can pay now or pay later.
- The children who have the social/emotional and cognitive skills to thrive in kindergarten, are more likely to thrive as readers, more likely to become graduates and more to be prepared to take on college and career opportunities.
- We can strengthen the prosperity of our region by investing in our youngest children and their families.
- Quality preparation of early childhood instruction is the important role that Klamath Community College provides and we are ready to be partners in accomplishing the above.

Many at KCC have been at this work for a long time, providing vital services to families and children in our community and making a positive impact. As a hub we are able to coordinate that great work with new partners at the table and all focus on a common vision.

- The Hub elevates early learning as part of the education system. We know that education can significantly change the odds for children and families and starts well before children enter kindergarten.

# KCC KLAMATH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Klamath Community College provides accessible, quality education and services in response to the diverse needs of the student, business, and community. The College supports student success in workforce training, academic transfer, foundational skills development, and community education.

- The Early Learning Professional Development Grant and the Race to the Top Projects are an example of the type of partnerships the Hub can catalyze.
- As a community based organization we have been engaged in this systems work in an authentic manner that allows us to bring our expertise to the table.
- Through these partnerships we are creating we are better able to serve the children and families we are directly connected to.

Strengthening early learning through the Hubs will benefit children, families and our region. I urge your support of SB 213 and appreciate your careful consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,



Julie Murray-Jensen  
Vice President of External Programs