

**Subject:** 3/19/15 meeting concerning funding of Extended Campus Community College Programs

I apologize for the timeliness of this e-mail, but I only just learned that you all are meeting tomorrow to discuss a program that my eldest son, Triston Ringhouse is a part of in Dallas Oregon. He was able to get into this through a wonderful program between his high school (Dallas High School) and Chemeketa Community College. While in High School my son didn't get the best of grades. He didn't fail by any means, but his heart was in the sports programs he was participating in (4 year Letterman in Wrestling, 3 years Letterman in Football). Like all parents, we tried to tell him the importance of good grades in high school; but, the inevitable happened and he graduated with a 2.95 (if my memory is accurate). However, through this program he has been able to attend college with no money coming out of our household funds.

For us, this is the only way Triston is able to go to college without accruing massive debt like his step-dad and I have (between the two of us we have about \$60,000.00 in college debt which with my recent lay off we have no idea how we are going to repay except through the garnishment he is currently having to deal with leaving our household with the same amount of money as a minimum wage employee, but he works for the State). The funny thing is you would imagine a kid who graduated with a 2.95 wouldn't be tossing around the ideas of being either a teacher or attorney and eventually working in politics (he was so excited to register to vote and vote at the age of 18, he even spoke to all of his friends about the importance of doing so). Those dreams are becoming a reality to Triston thanks to this wonderful program. One of the more remarkable things, he has just finished his second term and is in hopes that he will get a second 4.0 this term. Please think of how many young boys and young women (I know about 6 of his close friends are able to attend there first two years of college for free like Triston through this program) will lose out on the ability of reducing their college debt through programs like this.

Again, I apologize for the late arrival of my plea to keep this program going, but my husband and I pray that you will please consider what I have shared with you when making your decisions.

Respectfully yours,

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