



# Clatsop Community College

Office of the President

## Support for Senate Bill 932 24 March 2015

To: Chair Roblan, Vice-Chair Knopp, Senators Baertschiger Jr., Beyer, Gelser, Hass, Knopp, and Kruse

From: Dr. Larry Galizio, President, Clatsop Community College

Re: Senate Bill 932

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I respectfully ask for your support for Senate Bill 932.

Our rural/coastal community college serving the North Coast of Oregon works intensely to provide access to post-secondary education and workforce training for this economically-challenged region of our state.

Financial necessity compels the majority of our students to attend Clatsop CC on a part-time basis. Some of our students work as many as 40 hours per week, and many have parenting and other familial responsibilities as well.

The current three-year limit to enroll in a public university does not reflect the 21<sup>st</sup> century reality for rural Oregonians. These same circumstances make the five-year period from initial enrollment another barrier that evince 20<sup>th</sup> century notions of post-secondary education and training. By removing the aforementioned outdated provisions of HB 2787, Senate Bill 932 properly adjusts for the real lives of Oregonians, and provides for true access to opportunity our state.

Finally, as you are all certainly well-aware, a competitive 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy necessitates a skilled and educated workforce. Demographic changes in rural Oregon require enabling tuition-equity eligible students access to the Oregon Opportunity Grant and other state-administered aid.

The competitive job market and global economy have made earning a post-secondary degree or certificate the entry-level for jobs and economic sectors where a high school diploma had once been sufficient.

I respectfully urge your support for Senate Bill 932.

Larry Galizio, Ph.D.  
President, Clatsop Community College