

HB2624 Testimony

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The advantages of CTE experiences in High School are well documented. Teacher recruitment and preparation for CTE courses is essential to providing quality educational opportunities for our students and to help with meeting current and future workforce opportunities.

My current list of Industrial and Engineering Pathway CTE teachers in the Portland Metro Area indicates that over half of those teachers are already age 60 or within 6 years of retirement. There has not been a K-12 Technology Teacher training program in Oregon since 1991 when Oregon State closed their program. There are almost no Industrial and Engineering Pathway CTE teachers on the sub lists that could fill the upcoming job openings. CTE teaching jobs in the Industrial and Engineering Pathway posted by school districts in the metro area during the last two years have had very few qualified applicants with some jobs garnering no applicants!

Additional research that I have conducted concludes that approximately 7,000 high school students graduate from Washington County High Schools each year. That would mean that in the next 10 years approximately 70,000 students would graduate high school in Washington County. Research is indicating that there could easily be 35,000 jobs in the industrial and engineering pathway! That would mean that one out of every two graduates could get a job if they were sufficiently prepared and pursued the skills needed. We do not have enough CTE teachers to offer the K-12 courses that would inspire students to pursue coursework to meet the workforce opportunity in the Industrial and Engineering Career Pathway. This is one example of the need for CTE teachers that exists.

The Oregon Business Plan Leadership Summit goals included:

4. Expand the size and capacity of our CTE teacher corps by recruiting and training additional CTE classroom teachers.

☐ Establish and implement state funded scholarships and externships to attract and prepare new CTE teachers for the classroom.

☐ Create and implement new teacher boot camps to award provisional teaching licenses for those with workplace and professional skills as a pathway to teaching in CTE classrooms.

☐ Provide continuing on-the-job professional mentoring and a “critical path” professional education pathway to full licensure for boot camp graduates as they teach in CTE classrooms.

HB2624 is designed to help with these clearly identified needs. Please pass HB 2624 and fund it.

Thank You