



June 8, 2015

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
Committee Services Office
900 Court St. NE, HRA
Salem, OR 97301

TO: Co-Chairs Komp and Monroe, and Committee Members

Re: Support of House Bill 3063

I am writing in support of HB 3063, which appropriates moneys to a grant program that distributes moneys to community colleges to increase number of underserved, low-income and first generation college-bound students who enroll in community college and make progress towards a degree or certificate.

HB 3063 provides state support for programs like Portland Community College's (PCC) Future Connect program. Future Connect is an initiative that eliminates barriers for first generation and low-income students who will be attending PCC. Future Connect provides students with scholarships, a college success coach, career guidance, and job and internship resources. Because of the success of this program the City of Hillsboro has dedicated \$200,000 of funding towards Future Connect and plans to provide an additional \$100,000 in funding for another 50 student cohort in the upcoming fiscal year.

Having seen the success of Future Connect locally, I strongly support growing similar programs state-wide. Programs like Future Connect and the Aspiration to College Pilot help students become successful in school and will set them up for success as they attain employment after graduation. I respectfully urge your support for HB 3063.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerry W. Willey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerry W. Willey
Mayor