

Hello,

I am the Advanced Diploma Coordinator (5th Year Programs) for Greater Albany Public Schools. I am fortunate enough to be based on the Campus of Linn Benton to work directly with my students. This means that they have access to me most of the week.

The students that I have the most contact with are students of poverty, first generation college students, students with IEP's, and my Hispanic/Latino population. These students need the most help with navigating the sometimes complicated bureaucracy of higher education. They also need the most education related to how to be successful in college.

At the college that I am at there are no special programs that help support these students, unlike some of our other district colleges--there is no TRIO program or EOP program. What I have seen is that our students desperately need the extra support. I am able to connect them with resources inside and outside of the school, help them with scholarship searches, applying to universities, and have some of them taking a support class to further develop their academic skills.

This isn't about what I do, but about how these programs help students to become successful.

I have students who are or have been homeless, students with children, students who are migrant children and have no other options available for them to attend college. Some of their stories break my heart, and their success fills my heart with tremendous joy.

Please support SB 1537.

Sincerely,
Angela Spencer