

Dear Senate Ed Committee and House Ed Committee members and State Leaders,

I am writing to ask you to approve State Bill 1537. As a high school assistant principal, I have seen the impressive impact of our district's post-graduate scholars program (Advanced Career Technical Sponsorship also known as 4J ACTS) on students who otherwise would not afford to attend college. As a comprehensive high school administrator, I've followed students from the time they developed an interest in a high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) program to their application for 5th year sponsorship and subsequent positive experiences in Lane Community College (LCC) courses and programs.

This school year, I've had the honor to serve as the interim principal of an alternative high school, Early College and Career Options (ECCO), housed on the LCC campus. I've been able to witness the progress made by the graduates of our alternative program, as they navigate Lane Community College with the combined wraparound supports of LCC's High School Connections Department and Eugene 4J District staff members. Many of our program's graduates are trying to make their way to college without parental supports, housing, jobs. These are also students who have experienced generational poverty. Some students are young parents who see the value of continuing their education in order to support themselves and their babies. The post-graduate sponsorship may be the only way any of these students can afford to go to college and in fact may be their incentive to graduate from high school.

It is one thing to provide funds as in the Oregon Promise and another thing to provide both funds *and* supports to ensure each student's success at college. State Bill 1537 will fill the gaps of the Oregon Promise program, by meeting the needs of students who struggled in high school and may not have a 2.5 grade point average. It would be a shame if this gap in the Oregon Promise is not addressed. *All* students deserve not only the opportunity to go to college, but the supports to succeed. SB 1537 will provide both.

Thank you,

Stephanie Cannon
Interim ECCO Principal



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