

Oregon mandated a curriculum to be developed concentrating on the history and contribution of All Oregon peoples, but funding is needed for staffing, resources, and training. This is vitally important for the future of people living together in our state and nation and to counteract the negatives students hear.

Students hear negatives about their race, their ethnicity. It happens because of ignorance and fear of the “other”, the “different than me.” The media focuses on the education achievement gap, unresolved battles over fishing rights, racial profiling, ignored or postponed environmental issues in neighborhoods of people of color, and a disproportionate number of African American and Latino men in Oregon prisons.

Students of All Oregon communities can gain an appreciation for the historical, deeper story of other communities and cultures, and students of color will gain an understanding of their own identity. Knowledge and identity-boosting will lead to leadership and citizen participation for All Oregon students.

Please support SB 280 funding for inclusive lessons of Oregon history.

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P.S. Fortunately, there is a curriculum already written, Beyond the Oregon Trail, a base to be modulated for different grades and specific regions of our state.