



February 27, 2017

Ms. Julie Huckestein, President/CEO
Chemeketa Community College
P.O. Box 14007
Salem, OR 97309

Dear Ms. Huckestein:

On behalf of the Mountain West Career Technical Institute, we offer our full support for House Bill 2540 which would allow community colleges statewide to award a bachelor's degree in Nursing if they meet certain criteria. By allowing students to pursue and be awarded a bachelor's degree in Nursing at their local community college, we can be responsive to workforce needs in the health-care/Nursing sector and provide students access to living wage jobs upon graduation.

The Mountain West Career Technical Institute has played an integral role in developing the Salem-Keizer Career Technical Education Center (CTEC) in partnership with Salem-Keizer Public Schools. CTEC is a new, 150,000 square foot high school that is currently providing four CTE programs (Construction, Manufacturing, Digital Design and Cosmetology) to 340 Salem-Keizer 11th and 12th graders in the 2016-17 school year.

When fully built out in 2019, CTEC will house ten CTE programs and serve 1,100 students annually. CTEC's mission is "to prepare students for high-skill, high-wage, high-demand careers, while developing the professional skills, technical knowledge, academic foundation and real-world experience to assure their success upon graduation."

In planning for CTEC programs, MWCTI, along with community partners (including Chemeketa Community College) researched high-wage, high-demand career opportunities in our community. Nursing and the health care sector are seeing tremendous workforce demand. If community colleges can award BSN degrees, this will assist our community, and all of Oregon, in addressing the shortage of bachelor's degree prepared nurses.

We urge the legislature to recognize the tremendous value in passing HB 2540. It would positively impact our Mid-Valley region and provide benefit to communities across Oregon. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Chuck Lee, President
Mountain West Career Technical Institute