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Education That Works

May 9, 2017

Sen. Fred Girod
Rep. Paul Holvey
900 Court St. NE, H285
Salem OR 97301

Re: Capital Construction SB 5505

Dear Senator Girod and Representative Holvey, we the undersigned are science faculty at Clackamas Community College. We would like to ask for your support in helping to fund an upgrade and expansion of our current science laboratory spaces.

We have seen tremendous growth in our STEM fields and desire to support them with updated infrastructure that matches what students will be exposed to either in a four-year university or in the workforce. We currently have two chemistry labs that have been in use for the last thirty years with little to no upgrades, making it difficult to expose students to modern laboratory science. We work hard to ensure that our students receive an education that will serve them well and prepare them for whatever their next steps are in life, and this is difficult to accomplish with outdated infrastructure. The advancement of technology in our daily world makes it imperative that we provide a learning environment that will prepare our students with an understanding of modern laboratories so they will continue to be successful after leaving our campus.

The students we support include those in allied health programs, engineering, water quality, geology, biology, chemistry and environmental programs to list a few. Because of the wide breadth of students supported, we are essentially at capacity in terms of spaces available to teach science course. For instance, the chemistry labs mentioned earlier are continuously in use by multiple departments. Chemistry is an important support network for all our STEM related degrees and as such, our students, who are required to take chemistry to complete their science degrees, often cannot get into the class due to limited space. The same can be said for other areas such as anatomy and physiology and biology. The scheduling limitations caused by the inadequate space can create a more expensive experience for our students as they end up spending longer at Clackamas before earning their degrees/certificates and moving on to a four-year university or into the workforce.

The funding request we are asking you to consider is for \$8 million in matching funds. This funding, along with the \$90 million bond measure (already approved by our community) and the additional \$5 million being raised by the CCC Foundation, will help ensure our students have the facilities they need to move forward and have the experiences they need to be successful and serve them in the future.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter. We understand you have many requests before you and hope that after reviewing our request, you will support us in fulfilling our mission.

Thank you for your support,
Clackamas Community College Science Department

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