



Board of Education
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Education That Works

April 11, 2017

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

Re: Capital Construction SB 5505

Greetings, Senator Girod and Representative Holvey:

As Legislators, you work to meet the needs of your constituents. As a learning institution, the Clackamas Community College Board of Education works to meet the needs of its students and the community.

In preparation for its 50th year of service, the CCC Board of Education developed an engagement process called Imagine Clackamas to better understand what its students, businesses and community members most value about the college. Imagine Clackamas shined a light on areas where the college needed to improve and adapt its educational and training programs to meet the needs of the community it serves, both today and in the future.

As a result of Imagine Clackamas, in 2014 the college district passed a \$90-million bond to update and expand college classrooms and labs and to modernize equipment to meet industry standards.

The bond measure was developed after a two-year community engagement process, asking the community what they most valued and needed from the college today and in the future. The bond projects address the requests during this process. Career Technical and Transfer Degrees were identified as the top two areas for strategic improvement.

More than 2,000 people completed surveys through Imagine Clackamas. CCC also conducted a random survey of 382 Clackamas County voters. The priorities for the school were similar: maintain affordable, local educational programs, increase access to high-demand careers and provide more training for family-wage jobs.

Prior to the passage of the bond, the community participated in several open houses on each campus as well as heard nearly 100 reports on the bond measure.

In 2007, the Legislature awarded CCC \$8 million in matching funds for the construction of Harmony West, which will open this fall. The Legislature also awarded CCC with another \$8 million in matching funds for the construction of the Industrial Technical Center on the Oregon City campus, which will open spring 2018.

As you know, community colleges did not receive capital construction in the last session because we were asked to wait one session before coming back with a full list. So, CCC is

asking this year for matching funding for two more bond projects – the DeJardin/Pauling Science Complex and a new Student Services/Community Commons building. We are asking for \$8 million in matching funds for each project.

In the Science Complex, new science labs will expose students to modern, industry standard, scientific work environments, which are similar to what they will find when they transfer to a university. The addition of student collaboration spaces and support for the STEM Club will grow student retention. This project will serve all science and allied health majors.

The new Student Services/Community Commons will allow CCC to co-locate critical support services such as veterans services, disabilities resources and career coaching in one convenient location. Helping students stay in school and on track with their career and academic pathways is a major priority for CCC.

These projects are critical to meeting the state's changing workforce and educational needs. I ask today for your continued support of Clackamas Community College, our students and our community.

Sincerely,



Dave Hunt
Clackamas Community College
Board of Education