

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

May 10, 2017

Greetings, Senator Girod and Representative Holvey:

I, a student of Clackamas Community College, am writing to you to ask your support of Clackamas Community College's DeJardin/Pauling Science Center project as part of Capital Construction Senate Bill 5505. This project is necessary to the continuation of CCC's excellent STEM programs and allied health programs. As a mathematics major, I disapprove of poor organization and abhor lack of materials when trying to complete a project. Disorganization leads to confusion, and faulty equipment leads to a project put on hold or abandoned. It of course is not the college's fault that labs are overcrowded and lab equipment is outdated. CCC's current science lab serves 14,000 degree-seeking students and is 35 years old. It has served students well, but is in need of renovation and expansion.

Simply renovating the existing labs is not an option. This would cause CCC to stop offering almost every science class and many of the engineering classes at the college for at least a year's time. This would also not address the problem of space deprivation that instructors and students are experiencing. It is crucial that we add to the DeJardin complex, installing state-of-the-art science labs, and then renovate the existing labs in the Pauling buildings. This expansion will shorten class wait lists, reduce the time it takes students to transfer to a university or complete their degrees, and allow CCC to continue providing "Education That Works."

The students at CCC are go-getters, transferring to some of the most prestigious schools in the area, including Oregon State University, University of Oregon, Oregon Institute of Technology, and Portland State University, and participating in a wide range of internships. The current science lab at CCC does not adequately prepare them for the lab space and equipment that they will be working with in the internships and after they transfer. My personal experiences in our Physics lab was sub-par, mainly because the class itself was overcrowded and the equipment was not up-to-date. I know many of my fellow students feel the same. Expanding and renovating our labs would allow for a lower student-to-teacher ratio, the purchase of new equipment, and a stronger preparation for University science courses. It would also support CCC STEM Club's ability to gain student retention and initiate student-led projects.

This reconstruction of CCC's Science Complex has been approved by the Board of Education. However, this estimated cost of this project is \$24.7 million. We ask today that you support Clackamas Community College students by providing \$8 million in matching funds for the expansion of the DeJardin/Pauling Science Complex.

Sincerely,
Gwendalynn Painter, student and STEM Club officer