



May 11, 2017

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

From: OCCC Foundation

Submitted to: [jwmcc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:jwmcc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: SB 5505 - In support of Oregon Coast Community College, Lincoln County Oregon, Workforce Education and Resiliency Center, \$8 million Article XI-G State Bonding

Dear Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

The OCCC Foundation is in full support of Oregon Coast Community College's plan to build a Workforce Education and Resiliency Center at their Newport campus.

The OCCC Foundation's mission is to advance educational opportunities by raising funds for College programs and student scholarships while increasing public awareness about the College and its many benefits. We believe meaningful, quality education is the key to better employment, financial success and personal satisfaction and support the college in providing access to education for all our citizens. The Foundation received its non-profit, tax exempt status from the State of Oregon in 2000. Through its fundraising efforts, the Foundation helps support the growth and stability of the College, thus ensuring the future of higher education in Lincoln County. In 2016-17, the Foundation provided over \$100,000 in scholarships for needy students and roughly \$40,000 in other program support.

The Foundation sees the new Workforce Education and Resiliency Center as a logical next step in meeting the needs of the communities served by the College and stands ready to assist in raising the necessary matching funds for this project. President Ryslinge presented the concept for a new building at the March 2016 Foundation Board meeting, including the opportunity to design space that would not only house career and trades focused education programs but would also be versatile enough to serve as a resiliency and recovery center in the aftermath of a catastrophic event. The Board expressed immediate support for the idea and began laying the groundwork for increased fundraising capacity. This includes strengthening Board membership for better representation and reach within the community as well as philanthropic training for Board members. The Foundation Board is confident that, in partnership with OCCC, we can build support in the community and raise the required matching funds for this worthy project.

We encourage your support for OCCC's Workforce Education and Resiliency Center and thank you for your efforts to support educational attainment in Lincoln County and across the state.

Sincerely,

Lucinda Taylor  
Director of Advancement