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Education That Works

May 8, 2017

Senator Fred Girod
Representative Paul Holvey
900 Court St. NE, H285
Salem, OR 97301

Greetings Senator Girod and Representative Holvey,

I am writing to you to ask for your support Senate Bill 5505 and specifically for the Clackamas Community College DeJardin/Pauling Science Complex project. We are seeking \$8 million in match dollars. Funding for this project will provide the modern facilities needed to prepare our students for a wide range of careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). I am the Dean of Arts and Sciences at Clackamas Community College and am excited by the opportunities this project would bring to expose our students to industry standard science labs. For example, our current, single Chemistry lab is 35 years old, inefficient, crowded, and serves 14,000 degree-seeking students! This project will double our capacity to offer Chemistry and expands our capacity to offer more needed biology labs by creating more efficient preparation areas. The addition of new labs will shorten class wait lists, enhance retention, reduce time to degree completion, time to transfer to a university, and ultimately, well-trained and educated individuals doing productive work within the state of Oregon.

This project not only expands our capacity to offer Chemistry and Biology, but also serves all science and allied health majors. The proposed expansion of collegiate and technical science labs prepares students for major and careers in areas such as: physics; chemistry; biology; water/wastewater; environmental sciences; cellular and molecular invertebrate studies; geologic studies; and health sciences perquisites like anatomy and physiology.

The passing of Bond Measure 3-477 by voters in 2014 provided \$90 million to update and expand college classrooms and labs and modernize equipment to meet industry standards. During our community engagement process in preparation for the bond measure, updating of our science facilities was found to be one of the highest priorities. While \$90 million is a large amount, it is not enough to complete the \$155 total of all projects identified. The \$8 million in matching funds we are requesting will help fill the gap.

In closing, thank your continuing support for Senate Bill 5505 and for this project that is so important to the success of our students, leads to well-paying jobs, and provides Oregon with a highly-educated workforce!

Highest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan L. Goff', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Susan L Goff, Ph.D.