



JAMES F. AND MARION L.
MILLER
FOUNDATION

March 7, 2019

Co-Chair Senator Lew Frederick
Co-Chair Representative Susan McLain
Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means
jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Co-Chairs and Subcommittee Members,

I am writing as a member of the Educator Advancement Council, a board member of Foundations for a Better Oregon and the Chalkboard Project, and as the Executive Director of the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation.

My letter today is in support of funding at the level of \$60 million to the Educator Advancement Council (EAC) for distribution to educator networks. EAC was created with the participation and involvement of educators and OEA members, philanthropy, higher education, educational service districts, school districts and state agencies including the Oregon Department of Education, Teachers' Standards and Practices Commission, the Early Learning Division, the Chief Education Office, Beaverton School District, and High Desert Educational Service District.

The EAC was designed to take the results of successful pilot programs funded initially through the Chalkboard Project and others, and translate them into system change processes to reach and involve educators (teachers and administrators across the PreK-12 continuum) in every part of the state. The pilots included supporting mentors for novice teachers and educators, enabling cross-functional teams in schools solve problems of practice, and designing leadership opportunities which engage students, family and communities to improve student outcomes. The EAC has made considerable progress and has a plan moving forward to allocate funding previously in the Network for Quality Teaching and Learning in an equitable manner that will provide support for educators informed by local priorities. In the work of the EAC, we have listened closely to the voices of educators working at the classroom and district level to improve systems and practices which provide supports for educators which improve outcomes for **all** students.

The Miller Foundation has been a partner with the state in funding educator professional development informed by data and the voices of students, families and communities for many years. We fund \$5M in the PreK-12th public education field in Oregon annually. We have provided more than \$4M in support of mentoring, CLASS pilot programs (now the School District Collaboration Fund), and TeachOregon through the Chalkboard Project and Foundations for a Better Oregon. We have invested more than \$5M in more than 90 school districts in support of the AVID (Advancement through Individual Advancement) program over six years. And most recently we have pledged more than \$7M over the next few years in partnership with school districts and Children's Institute to align developmentally appropriate instructional practice from preschool through fifth grade.

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We believe that through supporting educators and engaging communities – at the state, at the local level, with private and public support, we will find the paths to student success in every part of the state. We encourage this committee to support the continued work of the EAC as it strives to engage educators in the process of improving systems and practice within their school districts.

Respectfully,



Martha S. Richards
Executive Director