

March 23, 2019

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

We are the owners of ViewPlus Technologies in Corvallis, Oregon. Our mission is to make information accessible for all people including those with visual impairments. We manufacture embossing printers and ship all over the world. When possible, we purchase our parts from Oregon companies. We also develop and sell software to support the hardware. At the current time we have 14 employees.

In 1999 we moved into the Business Enterprise Center in Corvallis and became acquainted LBCC and its business services. As former educators, we needed lots of help and guidance. As our business has grown, we continue to value LBCC. Businesses need people with education and training beyond high school. LBCC has helped us find employees and has worked with ViewPlus for some onsite employee training.

Linn-Benton Community College plays an important role in making sure that companies in Oregon can find trained employees. It is able to be flexible enough to meet workforce demand and to provide customized training. If we truly want to continue our state's economic growth, and provide all Oregonians a pathway to success, we must fully fund our community colleges. Tuition increases are a huge financial burden for our students. The future of Oregon and the prosperity of the state depends on affordable education.

I urge you make funding Oregon's community colleges and the people they serve, a top priority, and support the Higher Education Coordinating Commission recommendation of a \$647M base budget.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Gardner  
Corporate secretary



John Gardner  
President