

March 22, 2019

Javier Cervantes, MPA
2041 Grace Ave NW,
Albany, Oregon 97321

Dear Representative Frederick and Representative McLain:

My name is Javier Cervantes, I live in the city of Albany, in Benton County and I work at Linn-Benton Community College and serve as the Director of Institutional Equity and Student Engagement. I am also the co-chair of the Inclusion and Diversity Consortium of Oregon Community Colleges; a group of colleagues serves as a network of proficient professionals that offer a variety of approaches to further the efforts of diversity and inclusion to create vibrant campuses and globally ready individuals.

I am here to support the budget ask of \$787 million to support the work and the mission of community colleges of Oregon. As a community college, professional that has an expertise in the area of equity, diversity and inclusion I am here to affirm that we are strengthened by the knowledge that difference make us better individually and as a collective. Embracing uniqueness makes participants of the IDC globally ready and on the cutting edge in responding to difference and change especially in the workplace as students graduate from our community colleges. Our aspirations informs by our passion and trust. Our efforts also lead to more inclusion while understanding we're interwoven by our own unique human experience. Our work on our respective campuses helps create people with the essential jobs skills to succeed in an ever-diversifying workforce.

State demographics in Oregon are changing. Data tells us that we are becoming more Latino, and increasingly inclusive of more people that encompass a variety of world views, sexual orientations, varying learning abilities, how people chose to practice their faith, or not, and age, among the other myriad of intersecting diversities that comprise the Oregonian experience. The investment in our community colleges will only serve to prepare people to engage with one another regardless of their unique identity. I strongly urge you to consider supporting the \$787 million request by Oregon's community colleges.

Thank You,
Javier Cervantes, MPA
Director of Institutional Equity and Student Engagement
Linn-Benton Community College
Co-Chair of the Inclusion and Diversity Consortium of Oregon Community Colleges