



Portland Community College
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Portland, OR 97219

April 10, 2019

Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Smith Warner, Co-Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Smith and Members of the Committee

Subject: Don't Leave College Students Behind in New Education Funding

Legislators have a once-in-decade opportunity to invest in Oregon students and reform Oregon's tax system, but the current plan leaves college students behind.

By 2020, 65 percent of new jobs are expected to require education and training beyond high school. To provide Oregonians the opportunity they need to thrive and for businesses to help grow the economy, we need to support students from cradle to career.

Increasing college operating costs are outpacing resources. With state funding not meeting current service levels, students' bare tuition and fee increases that strip away at the core mission of providing a community college education that is both accessible and affordable.

Unfunded mandates, like the Oregon Pay Equity Act, undermine the precarious and uncertain funding structure of the institution and reallocate dollars away from the core mission of providing students with opportunity and equitable student success.

Without post-secondary education in the education proposal, current budgeting severely limits unrestricted fund balance replenishment and the ability to fund critical multiyear needs like an enterprise resource planning system.

We urge you to support Governor Kate Brown's call for including post-secondary education in the spending proposal before this committee.

Eric Blumenthal

Chief Financial Officer

Portland Community College