

April 10, 2019

TO: Co-Chair Roblan;
Co-Chair Smith Warner;
Co-Vice Chair Knopp;
Co-Vice Chair Smith;
and Members of the Committee

FROM: Mark Mitsui, College President

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.

Since Measure 5, Oregon students have seen tuition increases vastly outpace inflation while programs and services have been cut because state investment fell further behind. Student debt is higher than it's ever been.

I know you have heard the stories of the countless lives changed for the better by the community colleges. Those changed lives have left a measurable impression on communities throughout Oregon. In fact, according to Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI) the 2015-16 cohort of students at Portland Community College will add over \$9.6 billion to the economic base of Oregon during their careers and account for nearly \$131 million in social savings.

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