



Portland Community College
12000 SW 49th Ave
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.

For example, graduates of our Diesel Technology program start their careers making between \$20-30 an hour, with some eventually earning six-figure annual salaries after four or five years. Yet because the demand is so great, we only fill about 10 percent of the local positions we post. We simply can't keep up with what employers are telling us they need without additional investment to increase our number of graduates.

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 even been.

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

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Villa

Campus President, Portland Community College, Rock Creek