



April 11, 2019

Dear Members of the Joint Interim Committee on Student Success,

As the founding board chair and executive director of College Possible Oregon, we are writing to request the state continue to invest in Oregon's historically underserved students. We are requesting a \$1,000,000 investment by the state of Oregon to expand our program's proven model to help the state reach its goal of more college graduates as outlined by the recommendations from this committee.

An investment in College Possible will leverage Oregon's efforts to improve student graduation rates in high school and college, strengthen the transition to college, break the cycle of poverty, create a more racially and socioeconomically diverse future workforce and reduce Oregon's social costs. It takes both a strong education system and community partners who deliver quality programs and measurable results to improve student outcomes. College Possible is a natural extension of Oregon's investments in education and workforce development, and funding will increase the number of students and schools served.

College Possible's Measurable Outcomes

The State's investments in College Possible of \$700,000 during the biennium budgets of 2015-17 and 2017-19 was instrumental in our growth and ability to serve more students in Oregon. In the first five years of programming, College Possible students in Oregon continue to achieve tremendous results: 96% earn admission to college; they earn over \$1 million in scholarships each year; 85% go on to immediately enroll in college courses following high school; and 85% of first year college students persist to their second year.

Future Return on Investment

College Possible Oregon is funded almost entirely through philanthropic sources, most located in the Portland area. A \$1,000,000 state investment could allow the organization to accomplish the following over the next two years:

- Grow the number of students served in Oregon by at least 20% or 300 students;
- Expand college success programming to support students in-person by placing a college coach on campus when we have 75-100 or more students enrolled;
- Continue to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of our statewide initiative pilot program to ensure our results are in-line with our Flagship High School program and expand our district partnerships; and
- Increase the number of high school partners in our Flagship program including adding an additional cohort at Reynolds High School and beginning programming in two new school districts: Beaverton and Salem-Keizer School Districts, enabling us to leverage the state's funding to expand our philanthropic support base in two new large cities.

Sincerely,

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