

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is John Blackwood and I am a faculty member at Umpqua Community College, Roseburg. This is my 13<sup>th</sup> year at UCC.

I teach cybersecurity and networking at UCC. My students graduate to earn a solid family-wage with good benefits. For many of my students, their education at UCC will be their only opportunity to attend college.

By all accounts, Oregon has enjoyed historic employment and a state revenue boom the past few years. Yet, our elected representatives plan to underfund community colleges, which will require us to make dramatic cuts in our services and program offerings, and increase tuition. Again.

UCC has cut its expenses to the bone the past few years. UCC's Board of Education has already acted to balance our books for the next school year by increasing tuition. Isn't our tuition high enough? Underfunding Oregon's community colleges means that students will have higher student debt upon graduation. It also means that UCC's campus, already more than 50 years old, will continue to deteriorate with no viable option to maintain and update our facilities.

If the past few years have been the best we have EVER experienced, and you underfund community colleges now, **how will Oregon ever properly fund its community colleges?** Today represents a once in a generation opportunity to actually invest in the education of K-12 and higher education. In rural communities such as Roseburg, UCC fights to decrease poverty, create stable families through education, and foster strong civic involvement in our graduates. Underfunding community colleges stands in direct opposition of UCC's mission to transform lives through quality education.

Please support the Governor's call to include college students in the Student Success Act.

Best regards,

John Blackwood

Associate Professor

Umpqua Community College

1140 Umpqua College Road

Technology Center, 107

Roseburg, OR 97470

541.440.7686