



**Oregon School Employees Association**

**State President**

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## **Senate Committee on Education Testimony in Support of HB 2964A**

**Submitted by Tim Stoelb, President of the Oregon School Employees Association**

Chair and members of the committee, on behalf of the 22,000 education support employees represented by the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA), I whole heartedly support the concept of House Bill 2964A to create an Oregon Education Support Professional of the Year Program.

For the record, classified employees, a.k.a. Education Support Professionals, occupy many different roles within a district such as clerical, library assistants, cooks, bus drivers, maintenance crews, information technology and instructional assistants. Our jobs are varied but our mission is focused: provide for the best possible support in the education of the students. The success of our students is a result of everyone's contributions, not just a select group.

The work that our classified employees do is often overlooked. The contributions that our unsung heroes make to the education of a child are immeasurable. Every moment in a child's journey through our public school systems is a "teachable moment." Be it on a bus or on the playground or the cafeteria or in a classroom, our classified employees are there to ensure that those opportunities are not lost.

Knowing the valued contributions that classified employees make to our districts across the state, OSEA implemented a recognition program many years ago to highlight their work. The OSEA Employee of the Year award promotes recognition and greater appreciation of the school employee by the education community and the public at large and to honor his/her outstanding service to education and OSEA. Unfortunately, this recognition is primarily within our organization only and does not have a far-reaching effect across the state.

Our classified employees are on the job, every day, doing their very best for every child they work with. Recognition for the efforts of our classified employees at a prominent state level is long overdue. Please honor the work that they all do and support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.