

From: [Steen, Scott](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Community College Funding
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 8:13:08 PM

Esteemed House Committee on Education members,

Approximately 70% of all medical decisions are made based upon clinical laboratory results. There is currently a nationwide shortage of laboratory professionals, and too few academic programs in place to meet current and future needs. If allowed to continue, healthcare across the country will be adversely affected. Oregon is fortunate in that there are three options in our state for entry into the Medical Laboratory field: the Clinical Laboratory Science program at Oregon Institute of Technology, the Medical Laboratory Technician program at Portland Community College, and the Medical Laboratory Assistant program at Clackamas Community College. However, these programs must serve the growing needs of the entire state. For the previous seven years, Asante Three Rivers Medical Center in Grants Pass has had a continuous need to fill vacancies due to employee turnover and retirements. We currently have three PCC and three OIT alumnus working full time at our laboratory. That equates to roughly half of our technical staff. Within those seven years, ATRMC opened a community health center that greatly expanded the number of Healthcare Providers in our community. We've also opened an Urgent Care Center to help with overflow from our Emergency Department and will be breaking ground this year on a major expansion to our E.D. in order to help meet current community needs. As you can see, these education programs have been crucial to this lab's ability to deliver high quality medical laboratory support to our providers and patients as our community's needs continue to grow. I'm confident you'll hear similar stories from each of the medical laboratories throughout the state.

I strongly urge the committee to consider funding these programs as well as possible. The healthcare needs of our beautiful state will only continue to grow.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Steen, MLS(ASCP)^{cm}; MSgt, USAF(Ret)
Lab Technical Operations Coordinator 2 (PM Shift)/Systems Specialist
Laboratory Services, Asante Three Rivers Medical Center
500 SW Ramsey Ave
Grants Pass, OR 97526

NOTE: The information contained in this message may be privileged and confidential and protected from disclosure. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by replying to the message and deleting it from your computer.

E-mail has the potential to have been altered or corrupted due to transmission or conversion. It may not be appropriate to rely upon this E-mail in the same manner as hardcopy materials bearing the author's original signature or seal. Thank you. Asante®