

IN 2018, THE WYOMING STATE LEGISLATURE MANDATED THE ADDITION OF COMPUTER SCIENCE STANDARDS TO THE STATE'S EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS THROUGH SENATE ENROLLED ACT NUMBER 48 – KNOWN AS “BOOT UP” WYOMING.

THE MEASURE WAS MEANT TO ENSURE THAT EVERY STUDENT IN EVERY SCHOOL HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN COMPUTER SCIENCE – WHICH IS GREATLY NEEDED IN OUR INCREASINGLY TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

AS OF THE END OF 2019, OREGON HAD OVER 5,000 OPEN COMPUTER SCIENCE JOBS – THE AVERAGE SALARY WAS \$89,447.

IN OREGON, ONLY 30 PERCENT OF ALL PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS TEACH COMPUTER SCIENCE.

ACCORDING TO CODE.ORG, COMPUTING JOBS ARE THE #1 SOURCE OF NEW WAGES IN THE UNITED STATES. THESE JOBS IN EVERY STATE ARE PROJECTED TO GROW AT TWICE THE RATE OF ALL OTHER JOBS. WHILE THE CLEAR JOB DEMAND FOR STUDENTS WITH COMPUTER SCIENCE BACKED SKILLSETS IS WIDELY KNOWN, ONLY 34 STATES HAVE CREATED K-12 COMPUTER SCIENCE STANDARDS. OREGON IS NOT ONE OF THEM.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT YOUNG OREGONIANS ARE PREPARED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ECONOMY THEY WILL ONE DAY JOIN, WE MUST HAVE ENACT COMPREHENSIVE COMPUTER SCIENCE LEGISLATION THAT CALLS FOR EQUAL ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY IN THE NEW TECH DRIVEN WORLD.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE NEED FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUALITY, WE MUST ALSO TALK ABOUT THE NEED FOR ALL STUDENTS TO HAVE ACCESS TO DEVELOPING WHAT WILL ONE DAY BE A FUNDAMENTAL SKILLSET NEEDED TO SUCCEED IN THE WORKFORCE.

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT SCHOOLS WITH DIVERSE STUDENT BODIES ARE LESS LIKELY TO OFFER COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES – WHICH ONLY FURTHER WIDENS THE EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT GAP FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR.

AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE, LET US PREPARE OUR YOUTH TO BE TRAINED AND COMPETITIVE NOW. AS OUR COALITION TO BRING COMPUTER SCIENCE TO EVERY SCHOOL, REGARDLESS OF ITS ZIP CODE, CONTINUES TO GROW – I LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE WITH MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE TO “BOOT UP” OREGON IN 2021.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION TODAY.