

HB 4160 Testimony – Portland Community College

Hello Chair Wagner and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Emma Kallaway, I am the Government Relations Director for Portland Community College.

We are so excited about the possibilities that could come from HB 4160. This is a work group that has been a long time coming. In Oregon we have had the Oregon Idea, 40-40-20, new Adult Attainment Goals, Governance and Restructuring that spanned 4-years.

We have asked a lot of questions and set a lot of goals about how we govern.

This bill is different. This bill brings together those who need us and our colleges to discuss what moves the needle for students of color and 1st generation students to get more of our students to graduation.

Our students are coming with more complexities to their lives than ever before. We all know that food and housing insecurity is up. In a recent survey of over 8000 Oregon community college students 41% were food insecure in the prior 30-days and 52% were housing insecure in the previous year.

We also know that if you are a student of color or low income your likelihood of experiencing these issues are far more than your white more affluent peers.

At PCC we see these students, I personally know these students. Just in the last year we had about 20 students participate in various political internships that we offer. I knew all were working multiple jobs, I knew of at least 2 without a place to call home consistently, and I knew far more who were taking on childcare and family responsibilities on top of their work, their internships, and their school work.

The good news is that we know that with the right academic coaching, with the right interventions, with the right emergency grants and scholarships we can help our students have access to middle wage jobs. IF, if we can support them to a path to graduation.

The good news is have programs like Future Connect - a specialized coaching program - that closes the persistence gap between white students and students of color. We know we have guided pathways and Career Pathways that help students find their way to graduation more easily. We have programs that work, we have best practices to share - as does each campus around the state. From you, we need this bill and an opportunity to expand those programs to more students. We like this work group that will shine a light on the needs of real Oregonians that deserve better.

I hope we can count on your support for HB 4160 both this session and after its passage.

Data:

In 2019, approximately 8,100 students from 14 Oregon community colleges responded to the #RealCollege survey. The results indicate:

- **41% of respondents were food insecure in the prior 30 days**
- **52% of respondents were housing insecure in the previous year**
- **20% of respondents were homeless in the previous year**