

## JTUSHE Exhibits

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**From:** Colleen Bowers <cbowers34@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 7:17 PM  
**To:** JTUSHE Exhibits  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Joint Task Force On Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education

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Hello Members of the Joint Task Force,

I am a former Academic Advisor for an Oregon community college. I recently spent over ten years working daily with students to develop their academic plans. Many of the students I assisted were underrepresented students. This was incredibly rewarding work.

In my work with students, I saw first-hand how barriers to their educational goals impacted their retention and completion. I can list them here:

Needing to work too many hours to pay for school and living expenses leaving very little time for homework and other responsibilities  
Lack of food and housing, transportation, gas money, or money for required course items like special boots (welding students)  
Learning challenges not addressed previously  
No knowledge of how to navigate college, from not understanding what an associates degree, bachelor's degree etc., are to how to register, how to do homework, schedule themselves adequate time for studying, how to write, fill-out FAFSA forms  
Lack of mandatory college orientations  
Lack of wifi and/or computers. Many students try to use their phone for homework completion which generally does not work. They can't always come to campus to use our computer lab due to working too much or family responsibilities  
Illness  
Lack of parental/family emotional support

This is not an exhaustive list, but does encompass many barriers to completion.

Thank you for this opportunity to share what I have witnessed first-hand.

Please help our students, they need it!

Sincerely,

Colleen Durkin Bowers

Sent from my iPad