

I am writing to urge legislators to support HB 2907 to fully fund community colleges at \$702 million. This funding would go towards upskilling/reskilling Oregon's workforce that was displaced due to the impacts of COVID-19, supporting systemically marginalized students, affordability, and innovation. Colleges need long-term support from the state to continue to support students and Oregon's economic recovery in the coming years. Community colleges are the affordable option for access to higher education in Oregon, particularly after the pandemic caused financial hardship for many Oregonians. Community colleges are Oregon's economic recovery first responders that serve the communities that have been most affected by the pandemic. In addition community colleges provide wraparound services that are becoming an essential safety net for vulnerable students.

Thank you,

Judi Charman

Mt. Hood Community College Foundation