

Mt Hood Community College Cybersecurity Department

Certification Fund Proposal



MT. HOOD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

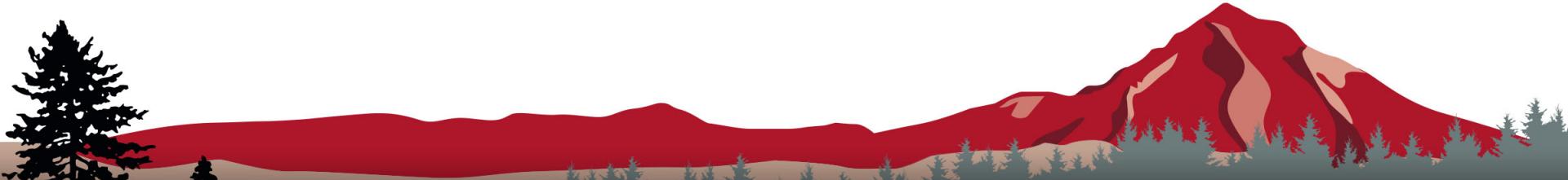
A Focus On Hands-On Education

We teach to the following credentials:

- CompTIA A+
- CompTIA Security+
- Cisco CCNA
- Cisco Cyber Ops
- AWS Cloud Practitioner
- Red Hat Certified Sysadmin

The mission of the MHCC Cybersecurity department is to offer **relevant**, and **applied** education. That's why a number of our courses focus on training for industry certifications and modern practices and tools being used by professionals in industry.

We serve over 100 active students, with two degree programs and a professional certificate pathway.

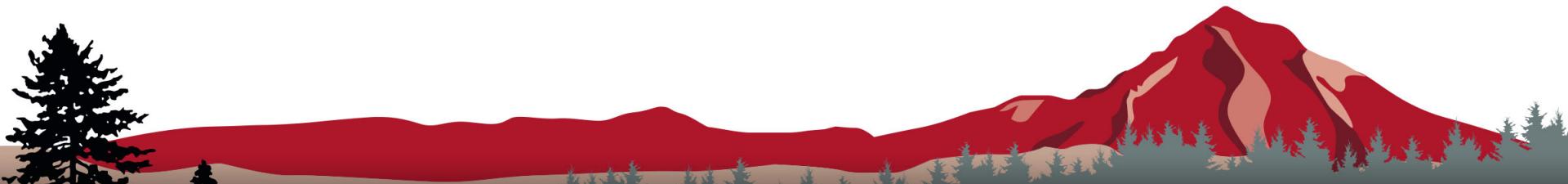


Serving a Diverse Community

The MHCC Cybersecurity program serves an incredibly diverse set of students, both in traditional DEI terms as well as others often less considered.

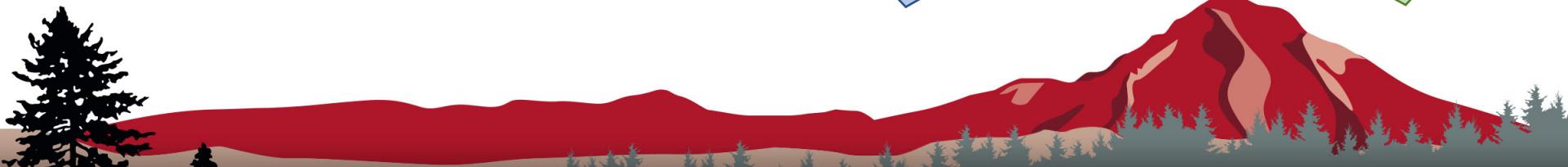
The average student age at MHCC is over the age of 30

- High population of students who are considered low-income
- Our program attracts a higher-than average number of veteran students
- Most of our low-income students are also traditionally underserved students (Black, Hispanic, Asian, etc.)



A Skills *demonstration* Gap

- Many industry partners are *willing* to hire AAS cyber graduates and rightfully so
 - *Practical* technical training
 - *Immediate readiness* for skills needed now using tools available now
 - *Efficient* – MHCC can source multiple graduates, streamlining hiring and training

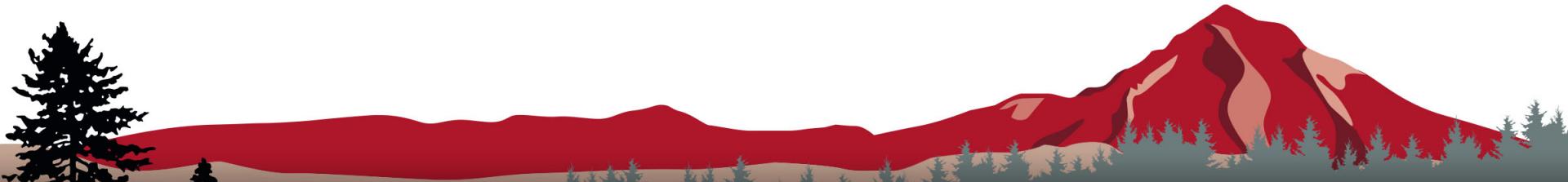


But an Employability Catch-22 Emerges

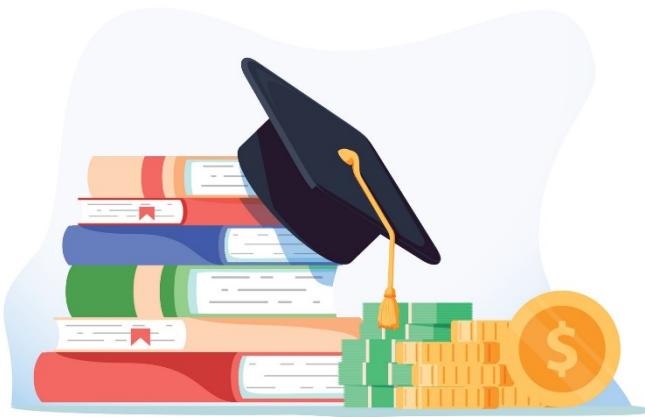
Our industry partners tell us that students who obtain industry certifications can have a clear advantage in the job market—however, many of our students cannot afford to take these certification exams.

Students need the certifications to get a job, but they need a job to pay for the certifications.

Over 90% of our students cite the lack of funds for the reason why they do not take these exams.



Solution: Certification Fund



MHCC seeks donations to build a fund for student's certification exam vouchers.

With full funding, ideally, each student would receive two certifications per year.

Scholarship Annual Funding Goals

Yearly Funding Goal	Outcomes
\$6,250	25% of students are awarded two vouchers* ** <i>(GPA and needs-based)</i>
\$12,500	50% of students are awarded two vouchers* <i>(GPA and needs-Based)</i>
\$25,000	100% of students are awarded two vouchers through duration of their 2-year program*
\$50,000	100% of students are awarded <u>four</u> vouchers through the duration of their 2-year program*

*Some exams are cheaper than others, which may allow a student to take more than two exams, while others might pursue a single more expensive exam

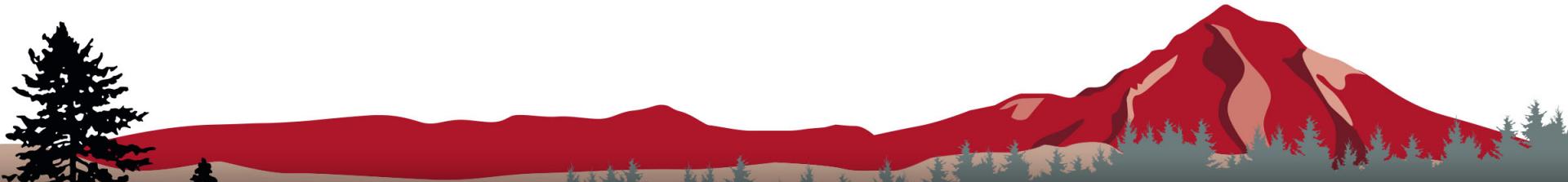
**Initial student uptake in this scholarship may need to ramp up, based on initial student hesitation and creating a culture of certification exam taking.



Future Potential for Oregon

This MHCC program could grow to 5-10 community colleges in Oregon, potentially serving several hundred students.

Assuming the program can be expanded to 500 students pursuing 2-year degrees, annual costs would be ~\$250k. This would graduate 250 certified students per year, across Oregon community colleges.



Thank You!

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