

TRACY CRAMER
State Representative
House District 22



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 27, 2023

RE: Testimony Supporting Reauthorizing Funding for Willamette Career Academy

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Wright and Hudson, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to support reauthorizing funding for Willamette Career Academy.

In the face of lagging achievement rates, giving students more opportunities to reach their full potential is more important than ever. Career and technical education (CTE) is a great option for students looking to learn a skill and enter the workforce.

This summer, Governor Kotek issued a line-item vote of funding for Willamette Career Academy passed in the 2023 Session because of a technicality. I am encouraged that there is bipartisan support to pass this funding again to support CTE in the Mid-Willamette Valley.

Willamette Career Academy is a first of its kind in Oregon, serving Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties and offering six different educational programs to help address the demand for highly skilled workers in our region. Those programs include cosmetology, health services, diesel technology, construction technology, IT & computer science, and forest product manufacturing.

In the 2021-22 school year, they had a 97.4% graduation rate. Nearly 56% of students were students of color, and 65% were female.

CTE is an equalizer for kids of lower socio-economic backgrounds. Willamette Career Academy serves one of the most diverse regions in our state. This investment would remove barriers for those who just want a shot at an education that fits their needs.

I look forward to working with the committee to give Governor Kotek a bill she can sign into law.

Respectfully submitted into the House record,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Cramer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tracy Cramer
State Representative
House District 22