

Joint Subcommittee on Education
Ways and Means

April 25, 2023

Dear Subcommittee Members-

The following are more details on questions asked during our testimony this morning on behalf of the community colleges.

Senator Dembrow asked about Adult Basic Education/ English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) enrollments were rising so quickly. We reached out to one of our Deans of ABE/ESOL/GED and she indicated that students really want to take these basic courses in an in-person format so now that they are available as such, they are enrolling in great numbers. At her college, Mt Hood, over 300 new students have registered for the spring term with most of them seeking ESOL or Spanish GED courses. She is working hard to hire more instructors as there are student waiting lists – one course has 45 students on the list. She also indicated that student interest in enrolling in in-person classes is only growing stronger.

Senator Frederick inquired about student placement with employers after they complete an apprenticeship program. Apprentices are full-time employees of the company or Training Agent they are working for. When apprentices complete their program after their 4 years of Apprenticeship training and they have met the requirements of 8,000 on-the-job training hours and 576 classroom related training hours, the apprentices now have a “Journeyman” status in their chosen occupation. They are still employees of that company. Once they have become a Journeyman their options are limitless, and they can choose to stay with the company and advance into management or supervisory positions. Also, if they choose, those Journeyman can get a General Contractor’s license and open their own businesses. After conversing with a Director of Apprenticeships, it seems the Senator may have been thinking of internships, which are much different than apprenticeships, including that the intern is not necessarily an employee of the company in which they are interning.

Please let us know if any questions remain or if more information would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Karen Smith
Interim Executive Director