

I am writing on behalf of the TRIO Student Support Services program at the University of Oregon. Our program and our students have benefitted so much from the support of the Oregon TRIO Association (OTA) since the Oregon legislature's decision to fund the Oregon TRIO Association. Matt Bisek, OTA's executive director, has been the driving force behind connecting all our TRIO programs across the state since he came into his position at OTA. He has done this expertly through planning and running monthly meet-ups and program sharing, professional development workshops, and much more. This OTA funding has also been instrumental in providing funding to TRIO programs for needs that are not allowable under the grants and awarding funding to students who are in their last credits to graduate and have run out of federal funding.

I cannot stress enough the impact the state funding that was awarded last legislative round has had on OTA and the programs it serves and advocates for. It has allowed us to have the supports and resources we need to recruit students to higher education, help them stay in school, and graduate and find a fulfilling career. Please ensure that we can continue to best serve deserving first-generation, low-income students and students with documented disabilities in their journey to a degree by supporting the OTA.

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