

Submitter: Hollie Adair
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Higher Education
Measure: HB3120

Good afternoon, Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Ruiz and Vice-Chair McIntire and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Hollie Adair and I am the Director of TRiO Educational Opportunity Centers and Talent Search Programs at Rogue Community College.

I would like to provide testimony supporting HB3120-2, which states that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall establish a grant program for the purpose of supporting organizations that expand the scope and community reach of college access and success programs for the purpose of increasing college enrollment and post-secondary completion rates for Oregon's historically underrepresented. This bill also aligns with the recommendations of the Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education (JTUSHE).

In the last biennium budget, HB 2412-2 invested \$5 Million to five College Access and Success organizations in the state. The intended purpose of those funds was to increase support services for Oregon's historically underrepresented students and expand the number of students served across the state. The Oregon TRiO Association was fortunate recipient.

TRiO programs are designed to serve low-income and first-generation students aging from middle school to adulthood who are looking to improve their lives through education. Currently, Oregon has 54 TRiO grants serving over 11,000 students. It would not be as robust without the support of HB 2412-2. These funds allowed Oregon Trio programs to increase program services by adding nine new TRiO programs, 20 new jobs across the state, and supporting 1,000 new students. This generated over \$2 million in additional annual funding from the federal budget. The state funds were further utilized to support current program operations, create state-wide student events, provide scholarships to those no longer eligible for Pell grant funding, and support study abroad educational opportunities

Students participating in TRiO programs in Jackson and Josephine counties were positively impacted by these enhanced services. A continued investment in community-based organizations through HB3120-2 will uniquely address the needs of underrepresented students in higher education throughout Oregon. I acknowledge that TRiO programs are limited in the impact we can have statewide, despite running effective programming in our service areas. I believe that an investment in the Oregon TRiO Association is a remarkable return on investment that can help maintain the effective management and constant expansion of TRiO programs

throughout the state. TRIO is impactful at serving underrepresented students in Oregon; let's work together to increase the number of students who benefit from these services.

I invite you to approve HB 3120-2.

Hollie Adair