

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education:

My name is Patrick Rooney Jr, and I am currently a faculty member at Chemeketa Community College in the HVAC/R program.

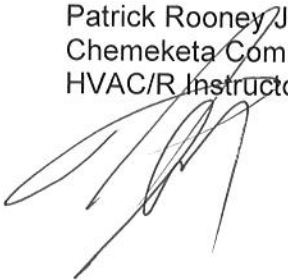
I choose to work at Chemeketa because I saw firsthand the impact educational gaps in our trade have had on the quality of the work in our area. My trade has been my passion since I first asked my supervisor what made the water cold in a drinking fountain when I was only 18 years old. Training future generations of HVAC technicians has been one of the most meaningful and rewarding things I have done in my life. Our trade, and truthfully all the trades, have become so complex and technical that a journey person will find it nearly impossible to be successful without a quality education to reinforce their on-the-job training. Chemeketa is a critical part of our apprentice's training program, and I am proud to have been a part of it for almost a quarter century.

After I completed my formal education as an HVAC/R apprentice at Linn Benton Community College, I went on to teach for the program to help train the next generation of HVAC/R technicians. I know firsthand that apprenticeship programs like this help community members secure living wage positions.

I urge you to support community colleges.

Thank you,

Patrick Rooney Jr
Chemeketa Community College
HVAC/R Instructor – 3rd & 4th Year

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Rooney Jr', is written over the typed name and title.