

Dear legislators,

My name is Elaina Albrecht, I am currently in my third term of Mt Hood Community College's nursing program. I felt compelled to write to you in support of funding for Mt Hood Community college. This college has been instrumental in helping me attain my goals of becoming a future nurse in the state of Oregon.

My time as a student of Mt Hood started over a decade ago. At that time, I had failed to graduate high school. I was homeschooled from the ages of seven to eleven. While homeschooling can be a wonderful method of education for some for me it left me with gaps in my knowledge. Especially in the areas of mathematics and science. After being placed back into the public school system in seventh grade it became apparent that I had deficits in my understanding of these core subjects. My parents floundered in how to help me succeed. This culminated in me failing to meet the requirements needed to graduate. After becoming a caregiver at a retirement center in my community I became determined to be a nurse. This dream seemed impossible considering my educational background. When I started at Mt Hood Community College, I needed to take the lowest level of math classes they offer. I was met with inspiring professors and tutors that made me feel capable. Through the support of my educators and tutors at Mt Hood that feeling of capability grew into one of self-confidence. It was through Mt Hood Community College that I received a diploma equivalent to the one I missed out on in high school. It was through Mt Hood Community College that I received my CNA training that allowed me to work for seven years at the bedside in the Intensive Care Unit of a local hospital providing invaluable experience through the pandemic. It will be through Mt Hood Community College that I graduate with an associate degree in nursing next year. Mt Hoods slogan is "Be your dream". For me that couldn't be more accurate.

Thank you for your time.

Elaina Albrecht, student nurse