

Submitter: Mark Gregory

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

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The Oregon Small Business Development Center Network (OSBDCN), hosted at all 17 of our community colleges, is celebrating 40 years supporting small businesses across Oregon. The Oregon SBDC was the first community college hosted network nationally, as part of America's SBDCs that host over 1000 centers nationwide.

Oregon's SBDCs and our community college hosts have over 40 SBDC locations that played a critical role in supporting the survival of small businesses across our great state during the pandemic and now during recovery. More than 626,000 people have attended our classes and workshops and over 183,000 have received 1:1 technical assistance to support their business.

Our core mission, as part of our community colleges, are to build Oregon's best businesses. This comes from a recognition that businesses are supported by community partners and resourceful entrepreneurs who seek to do something better. Oregon's community colleges are instrumental in supporting our business communities through the advice, guidance and instruction provided by Oregon's SBDCs. The work we do would not be possible without our community colleges and the business ecosystem that we support. We work together to share national small business best practices with our business communities and support entrepreneurs every step of the way.

Clients validate and attribute considerable amounts of their success to these efforts. In CY2022 clients reported that we played a significant role in their attainment of over \$83 million in capital formation, creation and retention of 1588 jobs and helping them create 198 businesses in our local communities. Working together, our community colleges have leveraged statewide services by recruiting local business owners and professionals that support each other in areas such as capital access, global trade, cybersecurity, market research, business resiliency planning, bilingual training and assistance, certified contractors licensing, succession and transition planning and much more. The Oregon Community College Association makes much of this possible by helping us align the priorities and needs of our business communities within our statewide strategic plan.

Our strategic plan includes:

- Enhancing business training and services within relevant, niche and collaborative service deliveries
- - Strengthening Partnerships within our business communities
- - Assisting Underrepresented Businesses through a rural and socioeconomic lens

-- Improving Performance by measuring validated client results, while enhancing and increasing our capacities to serve businesses through our community college programs.

Oregon's community colleges help build Oregon's best businesses!