

Co-Chairs Frederick, McLain, and Members of the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education:

As the immediate past President of the Oregon Institute of Technology (“Oregon Tech”) Alumni Association, I am writing to urge you to support strong investments in Oregon’s public universities so that our state’s students have opportunities to attend college, complete a degree, and give back to our communities. Specifically, we hope you will appropriate \$1.05 billion in the Public University Support Fund, \$400 million for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, 1% of lottery funds to the Sports Lottery Scholarship program, and \$40 million for the Tribal Student Grant.

I have spent the last three going on four decades working in business and the high-tech industry in Oregon. I am lucky enough to have had this career path thanks to my time as an engineering student at Oregon Tech. My first job in Oregon’s tech industry was as an intern for the Intel Corporation during the summers of 1988 and 1989. I successfully supported the wet and dry etch processes on Intel’s high volume 4” wafer line as both an operator and maintenance technician.

Thanks to that experience, I went on to spend the next 30 years working for HP Inc., including nearly 5 years on assignment at International SEMATECH, driving leading edge technology development for the semiconductor industry and enabling new product and technology innovations.

Oregon’s public universities provide an incredible benefit to our state. Their faculty and students generate original knowledge that powers innovation with our business. I am also living proof of the fact that they create the workforce that our state needs to sustain the high-tech industry.

Oregon ranks near the bottom nationally when it comes to per-student funding of our public universities. This is embarrassing. We can, and must, do better if we want to continue to attract business and industry to our state. Additionally, as a business leader, I know that one of the top priorities of small and large businesses is increasing the diversity of our workforce. Respectfully, I hope you will make investments in the Oregon Opportunity Grant, our state’s largest need-based financial aid program, and in the Tribal Student Grant, which covers the cost of tuition and fees for enrolled members of Oregon Tribes. I also urge you to continue providing 1% of lottery funds to the Sports Lottery Scholarship program. This program provides a path to opportunity for student athletes, and helps fund intercollegiate athletics at small institutions like Oregon Tech, which has a positive impact on our community and students.

Thank you for serving our state. Go Owls!

Sincerely,

Ken Vandehey