

March 10, 2023

Representative Bynum, Co-Chair Semiconductor Committee

Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC)

Requests 5M-SB 4 A New, Culturally Specific Workforce & Business Development Center in Portland, Oregon. Focused on Construction, Manufacturing (including Microchip), Architecture, and Engineering.

The Budget: The Center will cost an estimated \$20 million to build and \$2.5 million annually to manage and maintain.

- The Details: The Center will be 50,000 square feet – 30,000 square feet dedicated to training for jobseekers and 20,000 square feet reserved for office spaces for emerging and established businesses.
- The training spaces will include sections for welding, plumbing, HVAC, carpentry, and electrical, along with a design studio, classrooms, and a computer center.
- A daycare center available to trainees to remove participation barriers related to a lack of access to childcare.

1) Barriers for Jobseekers from Underserved Communities

- Absence of a comprehensive system to connect marginalized community members to employers and sustain these connections.
- A scarcity of culturally specific resources tailored to teach and support BIPOC jobseekers.
- Cultural, financial, and personal barriers that prevent marginalized community members from entering trade school programs.
- Lack of exposure to diverse career opportunities among Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and Asian Pacific Islander, and individuals from low-income communities.
- Lack of access to culturally specific mentors and coaches to support jobseekers entering the workforce and that spans readiness, training, placement, and retention.

The Collaborators

- Worksystems, Inc., Oregon's workforce development board
- Associated General Contractors of Oregon
- Black Business Association of Oregon
- The Portland Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program Consortium (POIC, Oregon Tradeswomen, Constructing Hope, and Portland YouthBuilders – see attached document to learn more)