

April 28, 2023  
Joint Committee Ways and Means  
Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Please support full funding for Higher Education in Oregon

Co-Chairs Steiner, Sanchez, and Members of the Committee:

My name is David Jamieson and I live in Lincoln City. I am a graduate of Portland State University (MBA, 1989). As you are making important budget decisions this legislative session, I encourage you to support Oregon's students through robust investments in public higher education, including funding the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) at \$1.05 billion and increasing the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) by \$200 million.

Living in Lincoln City, with a strong Community College (OCCC) but no public university, and a lower than average socio-economic reality (25.5% with Bachelor's Degree or higher versus 35% for the State of Oregon overall, Census Data here), it is critical that our residents have a pathway to success and that means a college degree. The Median Household Income in Lincoln City underperforms the State and Lincoln County overall by a wide margin.

Oregon ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the country for per-student, state funding of public universities and invests less than half the national average in financial aid per public university student. As Oregon's students and workforce continue to face lasting impacts from the pandemic, we must ensure that higher education is more attainable for every student.

- Funding for Oregon's public universities creates opportunities for all Oregon students, and it is more critical now than ever. It is critical for the state to support wraparound services such as financial aid, academic support, career development, and basic needs support – including food and housing assistance through Benefits Navigators – to meet the growing needs of our increasingly diverse student bodies.
- A \$1.05 billion budget will allow public universities to continue offering education and services for students without increasing tuition beyond 5 percent at most universities.

Thank you for your service to our state and thank you for supporting Oregon's students and public higher education institutions.

Sincerely,  
David Jamieson  
Lincoln City, Oregon