

Chairs Sanchez and Steiner, my name is Joycelyne Jordan, and I am a Community College Resource Navigator in Roseburg.

I help provide supports to community college students by assisting them to apply for and access available federal, state, local and non-profit benefits, and resources as applicable to helping them overcome barriers before starting and during their educational journey. My goal is to provide them with equitable, comprehensive, and holistic services otherwise known as wraparound services. Equitable is just a fancy term for "providing the students what they need".

My job is to listen to the stories of students who are experiencing barriers of all kinds which in most cases, barriers which prevent them from forwarding access and completing their education. Most of these students are either on public assistance or need help in applying for public assistance. I connect these students to resources that may be available to them. The barriers range from deciding if they have enough money to put fuel in their tanks to get to school to if they have enough money to pay their rent to if they will have enough food until their EBT cards get replenished the following month. They are juggling decisions on whether they will be able to survive while trying to educate themselves. To overcome generational poverty and situational poverty, they need support. We can't afford to prevent them from having access to higher education. We cannot afford as a society to do this.

As Oregonians, we want to see the economy thrive, we don't want people living in poverty or for them to experience homelessness, we want people to be productive members of society. By educating people, we can make everyone's lives better. We should be allocating more funding to community colleges - where people can move themselves towards self-sufficiency. Help the world move in a positive, forward direction.

*We need to see these students **through** so they can get jobs that earn a living wage and in turn provide stabilization in their lives. Please support a true CSL budget of \$855 million for community colleges, and please do so - not at the expense of other services, but by not putting additional resources into the rainy-day fund. We need the investment this biennium so our community college students can thrive.*

Also, I warmly welcome any one of you to spend a day job shadowing me while I work with these extremely valuable students.

Thank you!