

Submitter: Kendall Rosales  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB604

I am writing to show my support for Senate Bill 604. As a faculty member at Western Oregon University, I have seen first hand the benefits SB 604 has provided our students. SB 604 supports our Destination Western program of which I have been a part of for multiple years as one of the math faculty members. I also regularly teach our general education math courses.

Data has shown that students who do not complete their general education math requirement during their first year are less likely to complete their degree. As part of Destination Western, I have seen my Destination Western students choose to switch their first term schedule (or their plan for their first year) to ensure they take their general education math class. Furthermore, I had one of my Destination Western students come visit me to tell me that they were two terms away from graduating even though they were in the middle of their third year!

While my personal examples are anecdotal, there is concrete evidence of Destination Western's impact on our students as well. Our Destination Western students are retained at a rate of 5-10% greater than their non participant peers, and on average, carry greater credit loads while continuing to maintain strong GPAs.

It is clear that the Destination Western program provides our students with the knowledge and confidence needed to succeed during their time in higher education. I implore that you please consider SB 604 as I know Strong Start and by extension, Destination Western, can greatly change the trajectory of Oregon's higher education students.

Sincerely,  
Kendall Rosales

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