

Submitter: Emily Killebrew  
On Behalf Of: WOU Destination Western Program  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB604

Destination Western is an amazing program that WOU provides. It is packed with knowledge; it enforces good habits (like preparing students to be on time and even early to their math and writing classes); and it brings people together. Last year, I had the privilege to be a part of this program as a transfer student from Chemeketa Community College. Because of Destination Western, I was able to quickly and comfortably adapt to my new learning environment of a four-year-university because of the many classes and events it had. It is designed in a way to show the students how living in western is like (even if they will be commuting in the actual terms) and how classes could be presented. It requires students to go to office hours of their professors as well as use the Math and Writing centers. It shows students around Monmouth with its many trips (including the one I went on that went to Newport!) and stations around the city. I really like this program a lot because it gives students a little bit of everything, and it shows students many resources that we can use in our college career. Each class, event, and living conditions allowed new students to get to know their cohort as well as other cohorts, which sets them up for making relationships right a way and not feeling lost or alone. In my experience with coming into Chemeketa Community College right after the pandemic, I felt lost and alone for a good while before I began to feel comfortable. WOU Destination Western made sure that I did not experience that a second time. Because of all this and so much more, I highly support this program and hope you will too! Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.