

Submitter: Anthony Mendez  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB604

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Anthony Josue Mendez, and I served as a Destination Western peer advisor in August 2024, where I had the opportunity to be a cohort leader. My experience in Destination Western was incredibly meaningful, especially as I aspire to become a teacher. I was able to interact with freshman students and help guide them through the transition from high school to college.

While I enjoyed my role as a student leader, I wish I had participated in the program as a student. Participants have the chance to make connections and get a feel for what college life and classes will be like during the school year. I didn't have that opportunity, and it made my transition to Western Oregon University more difficult, as I arrived not knowing anyone and struggled to form connections, especially since I lived off-campus.

As a student leader, I would love to see the program grow and offer even more opportunities for students to connect and enjoy their college experience. Being in this position challenged me to develop better time management skills and learn how to manage students' schedules as well. While I won't be able to participate again due to my upcoming graduation, I am truly grateful for the opportunity, and the memories from this experience will stay with me always.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Anthony Josue Mendez