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On Behalf Of: Western Oregon University  
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As someone who went through my schools Destination western Program as not only a student, but also a peer advisor the year after. I believe this program fosters relationship building, adaptability and so many other skills that not many students and young adults get to learn. I believe by reinstating this funding is fundamental for many programs because it not only gives an opportunity for students to get acquainted with campus and resources sooner, but it creates friendships and connections between the students and staff. When I first start as a first year student at WOU I was nervous and only knew one friend, but by getting to have a whole group of students my age helped me not only make great memories and connection. We also got to create fundamental life skills that I will be able to take with me always. The program created a want to be like my peer advisors that I had for future students getting to help start them off with the right information and trust into school. As well as mentor students towards their future career and paths that they may take. Being apart of Destination western I still to this day have classes with my past group mates. As a peer advisor I get to see my students on campus and catch up with how schools going for them and I get to see that many of them are still in the friend groups that they got to create being in DW. If I didn't have this experience I would have struggled getting the confidence to talk to others more smoothly, make friendships and find spaces on campus to study at ahead of everyone else. Being in this program I got to not only make new memories, but grow my skills as well as learn new skills such as adaptability in tough and fast settings, creative ideas, and use critical thinking skills to identify problems and develop solutions.