

Submitter: Alcina Jeudy  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

April 16, 2025  
Ways and Means Committee

Hi, my name is Alcina Jeudy. As a survivor of trafficking, I used to believe college wasn't for people like me. Trauma made me feel invisible—like I didn't deserve a future. But Portland State University's Strong Start Summer Bridge Program changed that.

This program didn't just prepare me for college—it saved me. I earned three free credits before fall term, but more importantly, I found safety. The staff listened. They connected me to counseling, financial aid, and mentors who saw my strength, not my past.

Over the summer, I got familiar with the campus, connected with faculty and staff, and learned about the resources available to help me succeed. The daily writing assignments helped me reflect on my goals, my experiences, and how to approach college with purpose. It felt like I had space to grow, ask questions, and really understand what was expected of me.

I also heard from other students about their journeys and got to practice the kind of discussions and writing that are key to doing well in college. By the time fall term started, I didn't just feel ready—I felt like I belonged. Strong Start gave me the academic skills, the confidence, and the support network I needed to thrive. I urge you to renew this funding with \$7 to \$10 million to expand a proven, sustainable model that improves academic success, closes equity gaps, and helps more Oregon students thrive in college and graduate on time.

Please support this investment. It changes lives.

Thank you