

To: Oregon State Legislators

From: President Dr. Tim Cook, Clackamas Community College

Date: Jan. 30, 2026

Subject: Support Continued Investment in Prosperity Programs: SB 1512

Dear Legislators,

As you prepare for this year's legislative session, I want to begin with gratitude for your service, your care for the people of Oregon, and your belief in the power of education to change lives. I write today to uplift an investment that continues to deliver on its promise: Prosperity 10,000.

At its heart, Prosperity 10,000 is more than a workforce strategy, it reconnects people to purpose, to possibility, and to pathways that lead to self-sufficiency and community strength. In a time when Oregon has lost over 26,000 jobs in just 15 months, we know that rebuilding lives and our economy starts with opportunity. That's what Prosperity 10,000 provides.

A \$35 million state investment has already yielded \$219 million in economic benefit, generating \$23 million in new tax revenue and reducing social service costs by \$195 million. Over 9,000 Oregonians have been served by local workforce boards through this initiative. Participants now earn an average of \$22.73/hour, and 72% are working full-time.

Let me share a CCC success story that was supported through Prosperity 10,000:

“At the end of 2024, I found myself unemployed, overwhelmed, and unsure of what to do next. I had no clear direction and very limited financial resources. Through Prosperity 10,000, I was connected with Workforce Advisor Elena Esquivel—and from that moment, everything began to change.

With Elena's guidance and encouragement, I discovered the Alcohol and Drug Counselor program and was able to enroll immediately. The Workforce Grant (Prosperity 10,000) covered my tuition, allowing me to focus on my education at a time when I was barely able to afford rent and food. Without this support, returning to school would not have been possible.

Just six months after starting the program, I secured employment in the field. I began assisting with client intakes and documentation and was quickly entrusted with more responsibility, leading to a promotion to Alcohol and Drug Counselor. This opportunity has given me a stable career, purpose, and a future I never thought was possible.

Prosperity 10,000 didn't just help me get a job—it helped me rebuild my life. I am deeply grateful for the investment Oregon made in my success and for the dedicated professionals who made this pathway possible.”

Stories like this are unfolding all across Oregon. They remind us why we do this work. They also remind us what's at stake.

Without renewed investment by June 30, 2026, Oregon risks losing the infrastructure, partnerships, and proven results that Prosperity 10,000 has built. I urge you to invest \$15 million in the 2026 session to sustain this momentum and protect our state's workforce future.

At Clackamas Community College and beyond, we know that when we put students first, transformation follows. Thank you for your continued commitment to Oregon families, and to a future where every person has a pathway to thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim S. Cook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Tim Cook
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