

From: [McKensie Thomas](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Don't Leave College Students Behind in New Education Funding
Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 9:59:41 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

April 9, 2019

Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Smith Warner, Co-Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Smith and Members of the Committee

Subject: Don't Leave College Students Behind in New Education Funding

Legislators have a once-in-a-decade opportunity to invest in Oregon students and reform Oregon's tax system, but the current plan leaves college students behind.

By 2020, 65 percent of new jobs are expected to require education and training beyond high school. To provide Oregonians the opportunity they need to thrive and for businesses to help grow the economy, we need to support students from cradle to career.

Since Measure 5, Oregon students have seen tuition increases vastly outpace inflation while programs and services have been cut because state investment fell further behind. Student debt is higher than it's ever been.

Without investment in local community colleges, I would not have been able to earn enough college credit in high school to graduate with my Bachelor's Degree 6 months early. Not only did this opportunity save me money in tuition costs, but it enabled me to enter the job market earlier with the skills necessary to market myself as a hard worker. I currently work at Clackamas Community College and see how important affordable education is to students and families that are not able to afford a traditional 4-year education. Investment in local community colleges not only helps students, but affects the entire community in the long run.

I urge you to support Governor Kate Brown's call for including post-secondary education in the spending proposal before this committee.

Sincerely,

McKensie Thomas
Health Sciences Administrative Assistant
Clackamas Community College
7738 SE Harmony Road, Milwaukie, OR 97222
503-594-6589 ♦ mckensie.thomas@clackamas.edu



Education That Works • www.clackamas.edu