



Portland Community College
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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-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 even been.

The Financial Services Division which is responsible for budget, financial accounting, procurement and risk management service faces many difficulties in continuing to provide safe and consistent student services. We struggle with cutting budgets on a moment's notice because funding levels are not sufficient, consistent or reliable. We are unable to sustain sufficient reserves or contingencies to meet unanticipated needs or changes in enrollment.

We are reliant on increasing tuition and other fees to support reduced service levels. In addition we are forced to implement across the board budget cuts while still needing to reduce student offerings and services.

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