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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,

        In 2019, technology is an integral part of the educational experience and a key driver for student success. Especially in CTE related fields, the ability for students to leave college with strong competence in current technologies is critical to their future success. However, in the current budget environment, PCC struggles to even maintain our existing classroom technologies (computers, podiums, projectors, etc.). At a time when we should be talking about "mobile first", virtual classrooms and other advances in educational strategy, we are instead focused on how to fund the replacement of 10 year-old desktops.

        We also face funding challenges keeping up with the demands of cyber security. The protection of our students' data and identities is our first priority. Last year the Oregon legislature passed SB-1551, instituting some of the toughest information security regulations in the country – but, at the same time, continues to cut the funding that would allow us to invest in compliance with that legislation.

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

Yours Sincerely

Michael Northover
CIO/CISO