



Portland Community College
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April 10, 2019

Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Smith Warner, Co-Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Smith and
Members of the Joint Committee on Student Success

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 laid out in House Bill 2019 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.

From 2011 to 2014, I organized a community café for new moms and babies. I was motivated by the challenges and difficulties that I was experiencing as a new mom of a 5-month-old baby. I needed to connect with other moms. Thanks to the work environment of my former career, I was able to put a successful plan together to launch a very unique community café called "Mamacafe Angela".

As the founder and organizer, I played a variety of roles, such as marketing, bookkeeping, cooking, and organizing events, with my daughter hugging my back. Fortunately, the name of the cafe spread by word of mouth and became a big success. Many new moms were feeling isolated, uncertain, and anxious. At the café, moms were provided with a safe environment to share ideas about how to thrive in this demanding, challenging, and enlightening time of their lives. My role was to support, motivate and inspire them. Students need this kind of support, too.

Currently, I am working as a certified nursing assistant at a skilled nursing facility. I have now completed all the prerequisites with a 4.0 GPA and am applying for the nursing program at Portland Community College. My career goal is to become an RN and work in obstetrics and gynecology. Community College play a huge role in helping students like me get back into the workforce.

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

Chie Britton