
April 16, 2019

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter of testimony in full support of Portland Community College (PCC) and their Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program. I had the personal privilege of being accepted in the distance learning MLT program in 2011, graduating September 2012 and passed my boards in October 2012. From there I earned my bachelor's degree and sat for the MLS boards in 2016. The MLT program that teaches prepared me for the Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) exam. Since then I have earned a Master's in Healthcare Administration.

There is a huge shortage of MLT/MLS with most individuals steering towards nursing school or direct patient contact fields. Members of the laboratory are the unsung heroes of the medical community. Without the expertise of the lab, physicians would simply be guessing regarding patient treatment options.

This need for schools such as PCC stems from a multi-faceted issue; the two larger issues being retirement of existing lab staff and school availability. Within the organization I am employed at we have experienced a huge number of staff members reaching retirement age with no successors to replace them. This has caused an influx of employing laboratory assistance who, are a great temporary solution, but lack the experience and knowledge that comes with an amazing school program such as PCC.

PCC has such an amazing MLT program and I would and do recommend it to anyone interested into getting into the field. I currently work with two additional staff members that completed PCC's MLT program and went on to sit for the MLS boards a few years later and they are amazing scientists.

Sincerely,

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