



To the Oregon Senate Subcommittee and Whom it May Concern,

Please accept this letter as our statement of support for Senate Bill 3 allowing Oregon's Community Colleges to deliver Applied Baccalaureate degrees.

We, the undersigned, are members of the Mt. Hood Community College Career Technical Education (CTE) AAS Degree in CyberSecurity and Networking along with the AAS Degree in Computer Game Development. However, we stand today for all Career Technical Training programs and the opportunities they provide Oregonians and others seeking quality technical education.

In the past decade, we have seen a significant increase in the demand for graduates with *practical* technical training filling the need for qualified individuals in business both large and small, government, and military; all of which have taken advantage of the outcomes of our programs. Many of these graduates have stayed locally and are easily earning *family living wages*. At the same time, we recognize and acknowledge the benefits of a four-year degree, and especially one on the CTE realm.

What has been a hinderance to many students, and especially to veterans, returning students, Trade Act students, and those in workforce development, is that there is no clear path from technical training to a traditional Bachelor of Science degree in Oregon. This is a contributing factor to the growing skills gap that exist in many of Oregon's STEM fields—the talent exists, many students just don't have a pathway to earn the required four-year degree that takes advantage of their existing technical education.

Allowing the community colleges to create and deliver an *Applied* Baccalaureate degree would open vast new opportunities for thousands of Oregonians toward advanced skills training in much the same way as is already being pioneered in our neighboring states which are now operating with a competitive edge over Oregon.

This is why passing Senate Bill 3 is so important. MHCC offers some successful and well-respected programs already in fields such as technology, nursing, automotive, welding, mechatronics, business trades, wilderness survival, and more. They are generally tailored to the diverse and rapidly changing opportunities that exist within their various communities. Allowing community colleges in Oregon to offer four-year degrees as an Applied Bachelor of Science (ABS) would allow vast new opportunities for Oregonians to extend their skills and enhance their value to employers in new and innovative ways.

We ask that you support and vote for the passage of Senate Bill 3.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Tobin Shields in blue ink.

Tobin Shields, M.Ed., M.S.
Cybersecurity Faculty

Handwritten signature of Wayne Machuca in blue ink.

Wayne Machuca, Ph.D.
Cybersecurity Faculty

Handwritten signature of Jeff Sperley in blue ink.

Jeff Sperley, M.S.
Cybersecurity Faculty

Handwritten signature of Erika Ruhl in blue ink.

Erika Ruhl, M.S.
Game Development Faculty

Handwritten signature of Kay Lopez in blue ink.

Kay Lopez, Dean of Business and Information Systems (Interim)