



Oregon Community College Association
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**Testimony in Support of SB 3
House Education Committee
May 6, 2019**

Chair Doherty, members of the committee, for the record, I'm Cam Preus, Executive Director of the Oregon Community College Association.

On Feb 1st the OCCA board representing all 17 community colleges across the state voted unanimously to support SB 3, which would allow community colleges to offer applied baccalaureate programs. Currently state law prohibits community college from offering bachelor's degrees of any kind.

Applied baccalaureate degrees integrate applied associate degrees with course work into a four-year degree giving students a pathway into higher level work in their field. They would not include traditional transfer degrees such as English, History or Math. Applied baccalaureate degrees cover areas such as:

- Data Analytics
- Information Technology
- Diesel Technology
- Dental Hygiene
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Sustainable Practices
- Digital Marketing
- And many other applied science and technical fields.

Applied baccalaureate degrees offered by community colleges can provide a four-year pathway in rural communities where no other pathways exist and in more urban areas where pathways may exist but with limited capacity. Applied baccalaureate degrees are also generally niche programs that serve a local workforce need and do not detract from existing four-year university programs.

Under SB 3, a community college could only offer applied baccalaureate degrees after completing a process through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. For each applied baccalaureate degree program, a community college wants to offer the community college must submit:

- (a) A description of the program to be offered;
- (b) The method by which the program will be created, including any necessary accreditation by the relevant accrediting agency;
- (c) Documentation of local unmet workforce needs that would be addressed by offering the program; and
- (d) Documentation that the community college has the expertise, resources and student interest necessary to make the program successful.

Community Colleges urge your support of SB 3 because it could expand post-secondary education in underserved areas.