

Dear State Representatives & fellow Task Force Members,

I am the Student Inclusion and Success Coordinator for the OHSU School of Nursing, La Grande Campus. As Student Inclusion and Success Coordinator, I support our undergraduate nursing students by providing resources for emotional, academic, and financial support. While my role is to support all students on our campus, I spent the past four years as part of a federal grant with a focus and emphasis on supporting underrepresented nursing students and recruiting underrepresented students interested in the nursing field. The grant concluded June 2021.

Over the past four years, I have witnessed the profound impact of funding support by initiatives such as that of the Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education. The cost of higher education can be a burden to many students, despite scholarship resources and financial aid. This financial burden can make it difficult for students to be academically successful. In addition to the typical challenges a student may face in higher education, students from underrepresented backgrounds often face other obstacles as a result of pursuing a career where they are the minority. As Student Inclusion and Success Coordinators, we endeavor to alleviate some of these obstacles in hopes that our students will continue to be successful throughout their undergraduate education and nursing career. The COVID-19 pandemic had many profound impacts on students such as course delivery online, and a change in interactions between students, faculty, and support staff as people worked from home. This also led to a decrease in scholarship resources and other support resources as the affects of pandemic were felt throughout the country.

Funding from this Task Force initiative would allow us to provide students with financial support, ensure student success, and positively impact the academic experience and professional development of underrepresented students at OHSU School of Nursing, and consequently the future of healthcare and health equity. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Gratefully,



Beckie Juarez  
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