

TELL YOUR STORY

QUESTIONS TO HELP PREPARE YOUR TESTIMONY

 Lane
Community College

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
ADVOCATES

These questions are meant to guide and prepare you on what to say when testifying before a legislative committee. Whether you are a student, faculty, or staff, this is your opportunity to tell your educational story and advocate for yourself and future generations of students. What hurdles have you faced in your student career? What opportunities or programs have helped you or the students you work with? Pick and choose what is relevant to your experience and what you feel comfortable sharing. Keep in mind the legislative priorities and address them, if possible, in your discussions.

Carmen Ramirez
Cornejo



Personal Background

If student/alumni:

- Briefly describe where you grew up and went to high school.
- Describe your path to and through college.
- Talk about the supports and services that helped you through college.
- When will you graduate/when did you graduate?
- How are you able to pay for school? Do you work while attending classes?
- What sacrifices have you made?
- Have you received federal student financial aid?

If not a student or alumni:

- What struggles do you see students today facing?
- Why did you choose to work in higher education?
- What difficulties does your institution of employment face?

Chair Alonso Leon and members of the committee, I'm Carmen Ramirez Cornejo and I am a senior here at UO. I am a first generation college student from a low-income family. I'm from Salem, OR and went to North Salem High School. I was diagnosed with ADHD in my third year of college. Before my diagnosis I struggled a lot in school and didn't have the resources I needed to be successful. I was fortunate to have the migrant specialist at my school help me apply to colleges & scholarships in high school. What helped me during my college career were the center for multicultural Academic Excellence advisors as well as the counseling services, Trio, and learning specialist. I pay for school through scholarships, government grants and loans.

Your Future

- What is your career goal, or if you're an alum, what is your career?
- Do you plan to stay in the region after graduation?
- Plan to pursue additional education? Where?
- What opportunities have become available because of your college/university career?



I plan to work in a Latine nonprofit as a Programs or Development Director. I plan to stay in Eugene, OR after graduation.

Aligning your story with our legislative priorities



Increasing student financial aid and investments in student support services

- Are you a first-generation student or someone who waited a few years after high school to start college (non-traditional student)?
- What support would help your educational experience?
- How has your background affected your college experience?
- What were the unique challenges you faced?
- How would additional student financial aid help you succeed?

As a first-generation, low-income, Person of Color, I would appreciate increase funding in Multicultural services, more ~~services~~ Learning specialist and access to learning apps, mental health services, and more services for those facing a disability. As a Person of color, I need a space where I feel safe and can voice my unique experiences. As a person with a learning disability, I need someone who can help me navigate my assignments and help me find and use my strengths. Our Therapist are short staffed and would be really helpful to get more therapist.