



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Ben Cannon, Executive Director

3225 25th Street SE

Salem, OR 97302

www.oregon.gov/HigherEd

July 22, 2022

Representative Teresa Alonso Leon
Chair, Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education
Oregon State Capitol

Dear Rep. Alonso Leon,

Thank you for the opportunity to answer questions that arose during the July 14, 2022 Higher Education Coordinating Commission's presentation to the Joint Task Force on Student Success.

In regard to slides 3 and 4, Representative Alonso León asked whether we can track the unpaid labor that members of underrepresented groups supply to support their students and colleagues in institutions and workplace settings. Unfortunately, we do not have data to track this essential but unpaid work. Scholarly evidence indicates that the labor involved in supporting others can be significant and takes away from the time needed for other work productivity (see, for example, Berheide et al, 2022; Smith et al, 2020; Anthym and Tuitt, 2019; Bailey, et al 1996; Hochschild, 1983), and we would welcome the opportunity to support this kind of research in Oregon.

Regarding the longer term employment outcomes shown on slide 10, Senator Dembrow asked how many of the students from rural communities have returned to those communities by the time of these employment outcomes. Unfortunately, we do not have data on the locality of graduates' employment. As the Senator noted, out-migration of rural learners for postsecondary education and training is a longstanding concern of rural communities. We note that recent research identifies community strengths that rural communities can use to facilitate the return of graduates to rural areas, even if they left for college and university. This research shows that rural students with strong attachment to their K-12 experience were significantly more likely to return to those communities than rural students with less attachment to their early school experience (Sowl et al, 2021).

On the same slide, Representative Ruiz asked whether some of the difference in earnings outcomes by earlier Pell grant status was the result of Pell recipients being younger and at an earlier stage of their career than non-recipients. We found that graduates who had received a Pell grant were older, on average, than graduates who had not received a Pell grant. Among community college graduates with wage outcomes, 68 percent of those who had received a Pell grant in their last year were 25 or older when they graduated, compared to 56 percent of those who had not received a Pell grant. Among university graduates with wage outcomes, 47 percent of those who had ever received a Pell grant in their last year were 25 or older when they graduated, compared to 21 percent of those who had not received a Pell grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Cannon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ben Cannon
Executive Director

References

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