

JTUSHE Exhibits

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Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 8:12 AM
To: JTUSHE Exhibits
Subject: Public Comments

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JTUSHE.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov
UNDER REPRESENTED STUDENTS

The concern of most Curry County residents about our underrepresented students is that as long as the Southwestern Oregon Community College District Board of Education does not have equity at the board level, there will never be equity at the local level and our students will be perpetually under-represented.

Curry Campus students have been coerced into attending classes at Coos Campus rather than Curry Campus in very subtle ways. Not only is the student experience very different at Coos campus, Curry campus students pay the same amount for fewer services, less support, a deficit of the collegiate experience and do not have access to student housing in Curry County.

Unless Curry campus is provided student housing, our students will continue to be underrepresented to the degree that they have to find housing elsewhere because we have a declared housing emergency in Curry County. A Curry County housing emergency was declared and in solidarity with the county, all three of our cities joined in the declaration as well.

The at-large voting policy of the SWOCC College District continues to effectively provide very little representation... One seat on the Board.

Please note that the ACLU is, in fact, looking at the at-large voting policy at the City of Fort Bragg's City Council. It is a matter of time until this policy is found to be unconstitutional. A better way must be constructed by the State of Oregon because the local college district has no incentive to do so. They simply decide that of the \$2.1 million that is collected from taxpayers in Curry County that only about \$800,000 should be left for Curry Campus. There is no Curry Campus business plan to date.

Under-representation at the Board of Education level has left Curry County and Curry Campus handicapped in many ways. In addition to that, our county's economic and community development has been handicapped by this same under representation at the Board of Education level.

We have had the highest suicide rate among our seniors, youth and our veterans—the three groups most likely to use Curry campus. However, the inequity of funding and the under-representation at the Board level has left us in a predicament that we, at this time, cannot undo by ourselves and look to the State of Oregon to give us hope again.

Thank you,
Connie Hunter
Serving Our Veterans on the
Curry County Suicide Awareness and Prevention Council

Sent from my iPhone