

I'm a first-generation college student. I'm a 34-year-old non-traditional student who's also a father of a beautiful 5-year-old little girl. After my brother died suddenly from a treatable illness, I was devastated and my world was turned upside down. That moment, coupled with my marriage to my wonderful wife and the birth of our only child, provoked me to go back to school and pursue my passions in life and get a career in a field that was both important and meaningful to me. Here I am now, on track to be the first college grad in my family and I couldn't have done it without things like state / federal aid and tuitions being at a reasonable price. Even with how they have been over the last few years in school, there have been terms where I almost had to stop and quit school. Being on the verge of getting priced out of college is not a feeling I'd wish on anyone one yet is a situation that is faced by far too many of our fellow Oregonians. Having the fear of affording another bill is stress that college students don't need compiling on top of our already demanding workload. That's why I feel it's so important to have community colleges be fully funded. We need your help to ensure more Oregonians aren't priced out of their dreams and their futures.

Thanks so much.