

Jacob T, Waldron.

Alumni of TBCC, speaking to support HB 2907 to fully fund Community Colleges.

5 years ago, I was a freshman student at Neah-Kah-Nie High School in Rockaway Beach, Oregon. That Following summer I decided that I wanted to get my associates degree when I graduated high school. I wanted to save time and money in the future when I went to a four year university. Although this is not unheard of, at Neah-Kah-Nie it had not been done before. With that being said, I had a very hard time getting things planned out, often taking courses I didn't need and missing many opportunities that would have helped me out. I began to connect and speak with councilors at Tillamook Bay Community College about taking classes through the college online. They gave me all the information I needed, set me up for my courses and helped me plan along the way. As the years went on and I continued to take more and more classes they would continue to help coordinate my courses with the high school while simultaneously helping me get the proper courses for my future ambitions. As I was the first student to graduate from NKN with an Associate degree, many students ask me how they can do the same and how they can start. As I am able to point them in the direction of the community college, they are succeeding with their college courses. Furthermore, the number of students at younger ages taking advantage of this opportunity has only been increasing. Ultimately the time, and money I saved completing 98 credits free while in high school is invaluable. I am now a student at Pacific University studying Optometry. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to save thousands of dollars of tuition and I will be able to get started in my career sooner because I saved time. Needless to say, the opportunity that the college offers to the community and its students is inarguably worth the funding proposed.