

Dear Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

I teach sociology at Rogue Community College and I want to tell you that our students are excited to learn, but they are struggling. They need teachers, they need advisors, they need programs, clubs and tutors. They need the skills they learn with us to make Oregon better. All that takes money. I urge you to:

- Fund Community Colleges at \$702 million to keep programs whole, and tuition under a 3.5% increase. Community colleges are essential to responding to a recession, offering shorter-term programs directed at getting unemployed Oregonians retrained and back in the workforce as quickly as possible.

- oOregon colleges have played a leading role in helping students navigate the complicated process of applying for federal benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other forms of federal assistance that support basic needs. A recent study by the HOPE Laboratory of Temple University showed that 41 percent of community college respondents faced food insecurity over a 30-day period in the fall of 2019. 52 percent reported they had faced housing insecurity and 20 percent had experienced homelessness over the previous year. The legislature needs to ensure access to these services through CCs remain.

- Fund Part Time Faculty Health Care (HB 3007/ SB 551). Students and faculty outcomes are improved when part-time faculty receive the pay and benefits they deserve. Many part-time faculty members are forced to cobble together a string of teaching positions at multiple institutions just to make ends meet. When instructors are forced to spend so much time juggling between jobs, students can't receive the access and support from their instructors that they need to succeed.

Thank you for hearing me out!  
Erika Giesen