

January 23, 2023

Chairs Sollman, Bynum, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stacey York and I am the Materials Science Program Director for the University of Oregon Knight Campus Graduate Internship Program (KCGIP). I am writing to urge you to include investments in this program as part of your final semiconductor package.

The August 2022 report from the Oregon Semiconductor Competitiveness Task Force calls for immediate action to preserve and grow the state's semiconductor industry, including strengthening the talent pipeline with a broad range of educational investments and partnerships. Investments in existing workforce development programs that have a track-record of recruiting and supporting priority populations is critical for immediate impact on Oregon's competitive advantage in the growing high-tech global economy.

In 1998, a semiconductor-focused master's program was launched at University Oregon which combined graduate level semiconductor coursework with a 9-month paid industry internship. Now integrated within the UO's Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact, KCGIP boasts over 1,000 alumni and has 11 semiconductor industry partners within the state of Oregon, including Intel, Microchip, Qorvo, and Thermo Fisher Scientific.

KCGIP alumni have long-term, sustainable career opportunities with upward mobility because the training they receive:

- 1) is specialized to high-demand, high-wage jobs found in Oregon tech, healthcare, and manufacturing industries such as semiconductors, coatings, and clinical research
- 2) serves industries with projections of continued substantial workforce shortages and
- 3) places an emphasis on professional network and community building, so early and mid-career alumni have a strong foundation to leverage career advancement opportunities.

State investment in the KCGIP will support immediate, mid-term and long-term semiconductor workforce needs in the State of Oregon. Investments will strengthen KCGIP's ability to train students by providing access to modern semiconductor equipment and expanding staff to develop curriculum informed by regular industry feedback. An emphasis on concurrently addressing workforce demands and serving of priority populations will be supported through full-ride scholarships, a student success advocate for priority populations, and an Inclusion Symposium to build community amongst priority populations within the semiconductor industry.

Investment in the KCGIP will expand the enrollment in semiconductor-related tracks by 33%. Recapitalization of lab space will support sustained increases in training capacity, while multiple strategic efforts under development will support continued growth of enrollment, particularly from priority populations.

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