

Good afternoon, Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Ruiz and Vice-Chair McIntire and members of the committee. For the record my name is Joel Hoff and I am the Assistant Superintendent for the Crook County School District. Thank you for allowing me to share with my experience and support of HB3120-2.

I am here to provide testimony supporting HB3120-2, The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall establish a grant program for the purpose of supporting organizations that expand the scope and community reach of college access and success programs for the purpose of increasing college enrollment and post-secondary completion rates for Oregon's historically underrepresented. This bill also aligns with the recommendations of the Joint Task Force On Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education (JTUSHE).

In the last biennium budget, HB 2412-2 invested \$5 Million to five College Access and Success organizations in the state. The intended purpose of those funds was to increase support services for Oregon's historically underrepresented students and expand the number of students served across the state.

CCSD students have benefited greatly from our district's participation in the AVID program. Our students who are engaged in AVID have better attendance rates, are more engaged in community service, and are more likely to apply for a post-secondary education pathway.

This funding also helps provide valuable professional development opportunities for educators across the state of Oregon. This training equips teachers with engaging and practical strategies that will directly benefit their students.

It is important to create this fund and continue support for programs like AVID because it helps provide historically disadvantaged student groups with the mentoring and academic skills they will need to be successful beyond high school.