

ED DIEHL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 17
MARION/LINN



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 16, 2023

Representative Courtney Neron, Chair
House Committee on Education

When I toured Willamette Career Academy recently, I saw an impressive new facility with a passionate staff. I saw a number of programs, including health services, diesel technology, cosmetology, construction technology, IT & computer science, and forest product manufacturing that are preparing kids for a good paying job on the day they graduate from high school.

These programs can make all the difference in the world for students that are struggling in school or don't feel like they have a lot of options, because it gives them the opportunity to find something that really interests them and motivates them to continue their education. Time and time again, they take students that are disconnected from their school and they find something that captures their interest and makes them want to learn more. It's the hook that keeps a lot of students engaged to complete their education.

One thing I love about this program is it is taking the successful model from CTEC and giving small schools the same ability as larger schools. Without Willamette Career Academy, the students attending the schools in my district, such as Cascade School District, North Santiam School District, and Santiam Canyon School District, would not be able to have this opportunity.

Another thing that is very appealing to me, is that this is a true public-private partnership which will show tremendous returns for the community. It is leveraging private dollars and every public dollar invested here will provide returns to the community several times over.

I urge you to vote "Yes" on HB 3236.

Sincerely,

Ed Diehl
State Representative
House District 17