

**TRACY CRAMER**  
State Representative  
House District 22



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 20, 2023

RE: Testimony Supporting HB 3236

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Wright and Hudson, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB 3236.

Our school system should not be a one-size fits all approach. Career and technical education (CTE) is a great option for students looking to learn a skill and enter the workforce. CTE engages students for whom a traditional, in-classroom, at-the-desk education may not be the best fit. It prepares them with the skills they need for fulfilling careers in vital, in-demand industries. CTE programs tend to have higher student engagement and reduced rates of dropout.

I am proud to introduce this legislation and support a local CTE program – Willamette Career Academy (WCA). WCA is a first of its kind in Oregon, serving Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties and offering six different educational programs to help address the demand for highly-skilled workers in our region. Those programs include cosmetology, health services, diesel technology, construction technology, IT & computer science, and forest product manufacturing.

In the 2021-22 school year, they had a 97.4% graduation rate. Nearly 56% of students were students of color, and 65% were female.

CTE is an equalizer for kids of lower socio-economic backgrounds. WCA serves one of the most diverse regions in our state. This investment would remove barriers for those who just want a shot at an education that fits their needs.

Frequently in the Legislature we discuss large problems, and work force shortages have been top of mind for many of us this session. WCA meets students where they are at and supports the development of skills that are highly in demand by employers in Oregon. This bill addresses the root of the problem by engaging with the future work force and investing in them early.

I encourage the committee to move this bill today, so that WCA can continue to serve our students.

Respectfully submitted into the House record,

Tracy Cramer  
State Representative  
House District 22