

Good afternoon, Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Ruiz and Vice-Chair McIntire and members of the committee. For the record my name is Nick Nelson, and I am AVID District Director for North Wasco County School District #21. 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.

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.

Chairs and Committee Members,

It is my privilege to provide written testimony regarding the compelling impact, efficacy, and amazing transformation AVID has had on our two sites at North Wasco County School District Wasco.

From our perspective, implementing AVID at our two sites has had both a foundational and anchoring affect before, during, and more importantly after the devastation of Covid. As we continue our journey out of the Covid abyss, AVID, will continue to be our professional learning load star model for reinforcing teacher proficiency by implementing high success instructional strategies, Growth Mindset, and student leadership.

The recent funding provided by HB 3120-2 has resulted in one of our high school teachers to receive AVID Elective training last summer. This teacher filled a critical need for the continuity of our high school AVID Elective sequence grades 9 through 12.

Additionally, funding from HB 3120-2 will provide vital AVID summer remote proficiency training opportunities to four of our middle school Elective teachers. These staff will register for the second level Elective course our students will take. This second level optimizes the impact the AVID tutorial will have on underrepresented students' performance.

AVID's schoolwide professional learning opportunities have endowed staff with requisite skills for differentiating instruction and scaffolding content which is so necessary at this juncture coming out of Covid. A majority of underrepresented students have seats in our Elective middle school and high school classes. All of these teachers have received AVID training which has had a tremendous positive impact on helping us reach AVID's mission...closing the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college and career success.

Nick Nelson North Wasco County School District