

Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

For the record, my name is Kailea Boerste, and I live in Beaverton, Oregon. I am one of the Executive Committee Members of the Associated Students of Oregon Institute of Technology (“Oregon Tech”). On behalf of our student body, thank you for holding a public hearing on HCR 25, which commemorates the 75th anniversary of our institution’s founding.

Oregon Tech is our state’s only public polytechnic university, as designated by the Oregon Legislature. We started with humble beginnings in an old Marine Corps hospital as a vocational rehabilitation school for veterans. The student experience has changed vastly since then, but our institution is still focused on giving people the skills and experience they need to get good paying jobs that give back to our state. Our median starting salary is more than \$60,000 a year, and we have a 96% workforce participation rate within six months of graduation.

I chose Oregon Tech originally for the sole purpose of its Medical Laboratory Science program and partnership with OHSU. I was transferring from my previous college in Honolulu and found the school on a whim. I hadn’t heard much about Oregon Tech before this but saw what an amazing program they had and knew that this was the exact opportunity I needed in order to supplement my studies. Shortly after enrolling, I applied for a position on the student body government and was interviewed on the same day. I now advocate for my fellow students whether it be academically, financially or mentally. I love that I was accepted so quickly into this university, and I was able to show my strengths without being lost in the crowd. Oregon Tech also allows me to build relationships with my professors and get a deeper understanding of content that I haven’t been able to access before at larger institutions. Opportunities such as internships, scholarships and shadowing have been made accessible by Oregon Tech by allowing me opportunities such as networking and skill building on campus. I’ve been able to make great friends through student government as well as building strong relationships within my cohort for Medical Laboratory Science. After graduating I plan to pursue higher education in forensic pathology or investigation and will continue to use my leadership skills to support those in need and give back to my local community.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating 75 years of Oregon Tech. It is an honor to serve as one of this institution’s student leaders as we prepare for the next 75 years.