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I am writing on behalf of the United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley, to support the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center (CTEC) in Sheridan, Oregon, and its application to the legislature for \$12 million in construction funds.

The United Way is in partnership with the Barbara Roberts CTEC Development Team and Sheridan School District for the development of several CTE programs: Fire Science, Automotive and Heavy Equipment - Truck, Logistics & Diesel Mechanics, Manufacturing Technology –Manufacturing, and Agribusiness-Sustainable Plant Science and Technology. These programs will prepare our future workforce for high-wage, high-demand jobs in our local industry.

We understand that the development of Barbara Roberts CTEC requires strong partnerships that will inform and direct as programs of study are developed. Our contribution will be in the form of financial, in-kind, materials and/or expertise and may expand throughout implementation of the project.

Partnerships representing groups of historically marginalized students, along with organizations specializing in workforce development, educational institutions and career- related industries expand the network of overall support for CTE program development. Additionally, strong partnerships align the educational system with industry, leading to a well-prepared workforce. In contributing to this effort, we are investing in the students living in the West Valley region and supporting their CTE learning experience.

The Barbara Roberts CTEC project has garnered universal community support and bridges the urban-rural divide by directly addressing Rural Workforce Development and Education needs. It will serve as proof of concept for future funding of similar projects, leading to a stronger Oregon.

Now is the time to invest in Rural Oregon through Career Technical Education (CTE). The Oregon Legislature now has the opportunity to take a lead role in the revitalization of our economy, through a \$12 million commitment to this shovel-ready project. Barbara Roberts CTEC will connect our community and lift the lives of our young people. We respectfully request that the Oregon Legislature join us in this vision for generational impact and commit \$12 million to the development of the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Rhonda Wolf*

Rhonda Wolf  
CEO, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley

