



RE: House Education Committee for HB 4082 - Summer Learning Grants

At Connected Lane County, an organization serving Lane County youth, we envision a future where young people are equipped with the tools to build skills, gain confidence in their abilities, and find value in their future choices. We work toward this goal daily throughout our programming, serving over 4,000 youth annually. We collaborate with Lane County school districts, industry partners, workgroups, and community organizations to create opportunities and prepare youth for their lives beyond high school. By identifying and bridging gaps, working to change systems, and creating safe spaces, we help youth succeed.

We host various summer learning opportunities, including Invention Club and Middle Maker Camp for youth historically underrepresented in STEM fields. These opportunities aim to address the STEM equity gap and empower the next generation of creators, inventors, and leaders in addressing complex issues. As a result of funding made available through HB 4082, over 200 youth have accessed these programs free of charge. Youth have developed skills in the invention process, built technical skills, and gained experience in human-centered design. They have gained hands-on experiences outside the classroom, with their peers, in a safe space where creativity, problem-solving, and risk-taking are celebrated.

With funding like HB 4082, summer programs such as Invention Lab and Middle Maker Camps are made possible. Ensuring youth have access to learning opportunities during the summer months is invaluable to their growth and long-term success. Youth are our future. We must continue to invest in them for all of us to thrive.

Thank you,

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