



Oregon State
University

**University Extension and Engagement
Extension Service**

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February 6, 2024

Representative Courtney Neron
Chair, House Committee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 4082

Dear Representative Neron,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the importance of HB 4082, which provides funding for the Summer Learning Grant Program, administered through Oregon Department of Education.

Oregon State University Extension eagerly supports continued investment in this program, in particular the encouragement and support for recipients to partner with community-based organizations that provide expanded learning opportunities during out of school time.

Under previously funded Summer Learning Grant programs, Oregon State University's Division of Extension and Engagement has partnered with schools and school districts across the state to offer and expand access to impactful summer learning experiences through our youth programming opportunities. Examples include:

Bolstering innovative STEM learning and expanding access to culturally relevant programs

- Supported 100 students over two years to participate in Juntos Afuera (Together Outside), an innovative outdoor program for Latino/a/x/e/Hispanic youth based in Tillamook County. This year-round program includes an eight-week summer camp experience, where students participate in outdoor activities while also exploring Latinx identity, learning about career opportunities from Latinx natural resources professionals, visiting multiple colleges, and engaging in cultural celebrations with their families.
- Supported Tech Trek/Tillamook STEM Camp to purchase water monitoring equipment and computers, ensuring the latest technology was available to students. In 2022, campers engaged in 18 hours of hands-on activities around renewable energy, took a field trip to test water quality at the Kilchis Point Nature Reserve, and rotated through workshops that included food safety with the Tillamook County Creamery Association, life under the sea with the Seaside Aquarium, and robotics with the robotics team from Neah-Kah-Nie High School.
- Expanded Juntos student and family programming into summer, including middle school STEM camps, a 2-day Juntos Chemistry STEM Camp at OSU Corvallis, farmworker family workshops, Somos Latinx programming for youth and support for students attending OSU-Cascades summer academy. Grant funding supported 50 students, primarily from Yamhill, Marion, Polk, Hood River and Wasco Counties.

Supporting positive youth development through 4-H, school and community collaboration

- In 2021, Oregon 4-H provided a series of free day camps for 180 middle school youth, designed to engage them in social-emotional learning through outdoor recreation. Camps were marketed to communities affected by the 2020 wildfires, and areas categorized as vulnerable, underrepresented or low-income. All meals and transportation were provided to youth, and multilingual staff were on-hand to support diverse learners.
- In Grant County, OSU Extension/4-H served 975 students in 2021 with, environmental education, STEM, mentoring, service learning and general summer programming.
- In Benton County, funding supported 4-H to serve 2,850 students with summer programming including STEM, arts, environmental education, sports/recreation and workforce development.
- In Malheur County, OSU Extension partnered to offer summer enrichment programs in 2022 in Ontario, Vale, Nyssa, Adrian, and Jordan Valley designed to engage underserved youth with hands-on learning focused on nutrition, cooking skills, physical activity, literacy and the maker movement. Funds helped reduce barriers to participation, such as transportation, supported salaries for paid teen interns who gained valuable job skills like public speaking and project planning, served as role models and helped bridge language barriers.
- In Wasco County, OSU Extension/4-H collaborated with three school districts to provide extended learning opportunities through engaging robotics and computer coding programs in summer 2022. The low- or no-cost programs worked directly with summer school programming aimed at engaging students who suffered most from the Covid-19 pandemic.

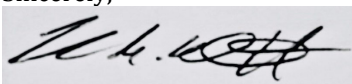
Expanding access to OSU KidSpirit

- In 2021, OSU KidSpirit partnered with Greater Albany and Corvallis school districts to support free and discounted registration and bus transportation, enabling 496 students to attend OSU KidSpirit summer day camps.
- In 2022, community program grant funding directly supported KidSpirit to offer 2-week summer day camps and themed camps (cooking, gymnastics, sewing, archery, teen leaders), including 243 camper scholarships.
- All KidSpirit programming uses positive youth development frameworks and fully incorporates social-emotional learning. Summer camp offers a science and technology track and includes a focus on school readiness, as 25% of campers are ages 4-5 (entering Kindergarten). KidSpirit also offers a “transition to middle school” camp and the teen leadership camp includes a focus on leadership and career readiness. Cooking camp curriculum is written to meet next generation science standards in math and 20% of science standards.

OSU Extension youth programs are specifically designed to address many elements called for in this program, including academic enrichment in STEM and the arts; school readiness; hands-on, inquiry-based, project-based learning; student well-being; equitable access and engaging families as partners in student success. We see, first-hand, the importance of creating expanded opportunities outside of school hours for students to learn and engage with caring adults and build connections with each other.

We encourage continued investment in the Summer Learning Grant program, and look forward to continued partnership with schools and school districts to offer impactful summer programming.

Sincerely,



Kristopher Elliott
Acting Vice Provost for Extension and Engagement, Acting Director of OSU Extension Service

On behalf of OSU Extension and Engagement youth programs:
4-H Youth Development, Juntos, OSU KidSpirit, OSU Open Campus, Outdoor School