



I am proud to be involved with the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center. The vision for the center began with local school board members seeing an opportunity with an aging vacant manufacturing facility and a need for rural high school students to be provided with more than a basic education. These were students falling through the cracks of society, and something had to be done.

The model presented at the Barbara Roberts Center is compelling; it brings the best of CTE to the underserved communities of Yamhill and Polk County. The center will serve students from multiple districts, including Sheridan, Amity, Willamina, Newberg, Perrydale, Dayton, and the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde (CTGR). In a rural setting, it is necessary to serve a broader area to get a critical mass of students. It is necessary, but it also complicates the funding opportunities. Most Schools in Oregon are built with local General Obligation Bonds, but that is not an option when serving as broad of a geography as we will serve.

Our local community sees this project as a high priority. We have received written and financial support from all levels of government, from private individuals, nonprofit organizations, and corporations. This is a project that will have a real impact.

Speaking personally, nearly a decade ago, my family's former manufacturing facility was converted into the Salem CTEC facility on Portland Road. This facility has demonstrated the

power of Career Technical Education to change its student's lives and be a powerful tool for economic development.

I strongly support the request of the Oregon Legislature to provide \$5,000,000 in capital funding for the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center.

Thank you!

Brent Neilsen
Consultant