

Submitter: Joshua Duong-Tran
On Behalf Of: SCYP
Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce
Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3109

Chair Hudson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) at the University of Oregon.

As a former student participant, SCYP was transformative and instrumental in shaping my passion for public service. During my involvement, I joined a cohort of journalists to distribute bilingual flyers in the Salem I-5 corridor. This quarterly project aimed to collect survey data on media consumption among Latinx Salem residents. Despite initial apprehension, our team successfully collected 231 responses, forming the foundation of a comprehensive report on media literacy within the community.

SCYP's in-person mentorship for undergraduate students at the University of Oregon gave me real-world project experience irreplicable in a classroom/campus environment. Working together on this team of faculty, undergraduates and community members, allowed me to hone my 'soft' skills like collaborative teamwork, time and project management, presenting ideas to the public, and of course writing effectively – all which are extremely important in the professional workplace. Their service-oriented mission of transforming Oregon communities large and small cultivated a seed of career curiosity within me, leading me to work in mission-oriented communications at Providence Health and Services: easing the way of our underrepresented and vulnerable with compassion, diligence and excellence.

The partnership between the University of Oregon and the Willamette Academy mentorship program underscored SCYP's community-oriented approach. SCYP bridges academic learning with practical application, preparing students to address complex challenges and promoting networking opportunities. The program equips hundreds of students each year with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to contribute meaningfully to society.

I wholeheartedly support ongoing funding for SCYP due to its profound benefits for students, communities, and Oregon. SCYP exemplifies the integration of public engagement into higher education, fostering a new generation of leaders ready to tackle economic, environmental, and social challenges.

Sincerely,

Joshua Tran
Hillsboro, OR