

Submitter: Noah Sary

On Behalf Of:

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 enthusiastic [or other positive adjective] support for the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) at the University of Oregon. The Sustainable City Year Program was one of the the best parts of my academic experience at the University of Oregon. During my time at the University of Oregon I had participated in the program twice, and in both instances I gained valuable knowledge, skills, and professional development. The first was working with the City of Hermiston and providing consult on sustainable enhancements to the city in the form of policy, design, and community engagement (design charette). The second project was with the City of Oakridge where we developed a buildable housing needs analysis with hazard mitigation considerations, and we created a university wide survey/project that helped us find the best open source GIS software according to users at the university. Being able to work as student consultants for cities on important planning, policy, and design projects is incredibly important to not only build the skills and knowledge, but also the confidence in ones abilities and work.

SCYP provided meaningful hands-on experience and gave me practical insights into how fresh thinking, new perspectives, and evidence-based ideas can be customized to the unique contexts of local Oregon communities to improve the quality of life for residents. Collaborating with city officials, faculty, and fellow students further enhanced my technical and analytical skills, as well as allowed me to hone my 'soft' skills like collaborative team work, time and project management, presenting ideas to the public, and of course writing effectively – all which are extremely important in the professional workplace. I am grateful to have had this type of training in college so that I could enter the workforce ready to contribute on day one.

In talking with friends that attended universities in other states, it is clear that SCYP really is a unique and effective program that serves as a bridge between academic learning and practical application, fostering a new generation of leaders who are prepared to address the multifaceted challenges of our time. I feel that SCYP really helped equip me and the hundreds of other students SCYP serves each year with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to contribute meaningfully to society.

I wholeheartedly support sustainable and on-going support of the Sustainable City Year Program and the profound benefits it offers to students, communities, and to Oregon as a whole. SCYP truly is a model of integrating the 'public' into public higher

education and the state's investment in SCYP will help create a new generation workforce and leaders who are ready to tackle the economic, environmental, and social challenges Oregon faces.

Sincerely,

Noah Sary