

Submitter: Denali Herrick

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 support for the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) at the University of Oregon. As a former student participant, I found my experience with SCYP transformative and instrumental in shaping my passion for sustainability and supporting Oregon communities to thrive and grow. This experience allowed me to connect what I learned in the classroom to a real-world setting where I was able to make an impact.

Last term, I had the valuable opportunity to work on real-world projects that addressed pressing challenges faced by local communities. The project I worked on was creating a communication plan, helping the city create a stronger connection with its residents.

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 teamwork, 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.

SCYP 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 with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to contribute meaningfully to society.

I wholeheartedly support the sustainable and ongoing support of the Sustainable City Year Program and the profound benefits it offers to students, communities, and 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 of workforce and leaders who are ready to tackle the economic, environmental, and social challenges Oregon faces.

Sincerely,  
Denali Herrick, Eugene, Oregon