

Submitter: Adrian Trujillo
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB604

Hello,

As an Advisor at Western Oregon University, I have seen first hand the great impact students participants of our Destination Western Program (Strong Start). Not only has this program allowed students to have extra time to get used to campus, find their classrooms, learn about support services on campus but also learn about the town and the resources in town for them. I have met with many students who have expressed how grateful they are to be comfortable in the community and navigate it. Its these little things that make a huge impact to the success of our students. A majority of students who attend Destination Western are either a first generation student or low income and this strong start is a huge determining factor in their sense of belonging which contributes to their academic success. Students in Destination Western learn to be outgoing and this leads to more leadership opportunities and begins the building blocks of a productive Oregonian.

Best,