

Submitter: Kaylee Lolar
On Behalf Of: WOU Destination Western
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB604

I am in support of funding for the strong start program within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. As a first generation college student who did not know what was to come, I attended Destination Western at Western Oregon University. This offered many resources for us incoming students for Fall term of 2024. I was taught how to use canvas, how to properly communicate with professors, and learn how to navigate campus. I got many tips from other college students and coordinators of this program that has helped me with my college journey so far. Without this program I would not have succeeded, I would not have made any friends, I would not be able to communicate with my professors, and I would not know what resources we have on campus. Not only did it help me come out of my shell, it also helped me make more connections within my college community. I am in support of keeping this program funded, it will help new first generation students - like myself, get the resources they need to succeed their first year of college.