

Submitter: Peter Hoffeecker Mejia  
On Behalf Of: Students Needs  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB604

Greetings,

I was fortunate to work with students from Destination Western through my role as Associate Professor at Western Oregon University. I led a workshop focusing on the art fabrication processes of casting and mold making. The student were quite engaged and learned how to use commercial casting materials such as alginate, gypsum plaster, and clay slip. I found Destinations Western to be a valuable program to foster student growth and success. Most, if not all, of the students in my workshop had no previous experience with the processes we learned. They left with new skills, understanding, as well as something tangible; a plaster cast replica of their own hand and wrist. The students were glowing, and spoke highly of the other workshops they participated in. Funding Destination Western allows for more students to become empowered, while learning new skills on a myriad of topics. It demonstrates the benefits of continued learning, collegiality, and academic growth. I hope you can see how valuable these experience are for students, and continue investing in their futures.

Thank you.