

Submitter: Daniel Tankersley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB604

I strongly support Strong Start because it directly benefits first-year and underrepresented students at the critical moment when they first begin college. At Western Oregon University, Strong Start enables a comprehensively supportive orientation experience called Destination Western. This past fall I had the opportunity to facilitate an afternoon of art making for a group of new students in Destination Western. Through this activity, the students socialized and bonded with each other over a shared experience of collaboration, creativity, and self-expression. Making friends, and interacting with professors and university staff in this type of context can make a huge impact on the well-being of these students, and launch them into their first year of college feeling comfortable and confident. This program is a very big deal to the students it supports. Thank you.