

Summer Bridge Testimonial

My name is Jake Green, a student at the University of Oregon, and a participant in the Summer Bridge Program that was funded by Strong Start. I am writing in support of SB 604: The Strong Start Program at Oregon's Public Universities, which will continue funding for programs that help ease the transition to higher education by providing an early start and giving them access to additional resources.

When I learned about the Summer Bridge Program during the summer before my freshman year, I signed up immediately. Summer Bridge allowed me to connect with the people and campus at University of Oregon in ways that greatly aided the transition process. By the time official move in began, I already had a strong set of friends and navigational competence around campus. In addition to giving me friends who I am still close with to this day, the Summer Bridge Program challenged us to think critically and problem solve numerous tasks, including robotic design and programming. We were able to attend numerous group outings, such as arcade night and river rafting. I am passionate about the outdoors, and many of my new friends had never been river rafting before so it was a new experience for them which they enjoyed greatly. All of the peer leaders and faculty involved in the Summer Bridge Program were welcoming and supportive, fostering an environment of inclusivity and learning. They shared tips about study techniques, adjusting to college, and general life advice.

Looking back, I am so thankful towards everyone who put effort into the Summer Bridge Program. It was an educational, fun, and invaluable preamble to the beginning of life as a college student, and helped us set our roots before the wind began to blow.

Please continue funding and expanding the Strong Start Program so that more students can benefit from its impactful services. Your leadership and commitment to education will help ensure that Oregon's public universities remain places of opportunity, inclusion, and achievement.

Thank you for your time, and I hope I can count on your support of SB 604, the Strong Start Program!

Sincerely,
Jake Green
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