

Submitter: Trina Janssen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce  
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2997

Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and members of the committee,

My name is Trina Janssen and I work at Rogue Community College in Grants Pass and Medford. I am writing in strong support of HB 2997, which will establish a designated grant fund within HECC to support college access and success programs for underrepresented students in Oregon.

I love what I do because I get to see how government money, when focused on those who need it most, makes an impact on the lives of people who really are trying to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. TRIO helps people who are low-income and first generation in their family to go to college overcome barriers to education. I have to say, I'm not first generation college student, but with my daughter who is college age I have to ask my co-workers all kinds of questions about how to go through the process of admissions, registering for classes and navigating FAFSA. I can't imagine how people who are completely unfamiliar with these systems go through it and stick with it without some kind of support. These are the people who go on to become nurses, mechanics, early childhood educators, EMTs, and law enforcement among other careers, and imagining life without these skilled workers is dreadful. I hope I can depend on your support of this bill!

I urge you to support HB 2997 to ensure that these essential programs continue to serve students across Oregon. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Trina Janssen  
Program Coordinator TRIO ETS & EOC  
Rogue Community College  
541-776-1325