

Submitter: Tandy Tillinghast

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB604

Over the last four+ years working as a Writing Instructor for Start Start and Destination Western at Western Oregon University I have seen the power of the program in shaping the success of students. These students, often first generation, develop relationships with faculty and staff, understand and learn the supports available on our campus and in turn aid other peers.

Even in students who I don't see until three to six terms later, in a first term writing course, strengths in their writing remain identifiable based on this short intensive program.

Most importantly, these students have self advocacy skills from participating in Strong Start that affect their success throughout university and beyond. The relationships, supports and leadership of students forged during Strong Start flourish during their university progress.

Much gratitude and be well,

Tandy