

April 8, 2025

Co-Chair Janeen Sollman  
Co-Chair Ricki Ruiz  
Members of Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee

Dear Co-Chair Sollman, Co-Chair Ruiz, and Members of the Committee,

I urge your support for a \$920 million allocation to the Community College Support Fund (CCSF) in SB 5525.

Community colleges are essential to Oregon's workforce and economic development and provide an accessible pathway to a living wage. At PCC and institutions across the state, we provide education and job training that directly address workforce shortages, particularly in high-demand fields like healthcare, manufacturing, and technology. However, rising costs and ongoing state disinvestment threaten our ability to maintain these vital programs and services and threaten the accessibility of the programs for our community.

A \$920 million investment in CCSF is necessary to cover rising healthcare and salary costs that exceed current state funding levels, sustain critical workforce training programs, including semiconductor manufacturing, nursing, and welding, support student success initiatives, such as wraparound services that improve retention and completion rates, and address significant operational cost increases, including a 22% rise in utility expenses at PCC alone. Without this level of funding, community colleges will be forced to make difficult choices that could limit access to affordable education and workforce training opportunities for Oregonians.

I urge you to support the \$920 million Community College Support Fund to ensure that Oregon's community colleges can continue to serve students, businesses, and communities effectively. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Kim Morgan  
President, Portland Community College Foundation Board