

My name is Whitney McFarlane. I'm a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student at OSU-Cascades and currently serve as the ASCC (student government) President.

I'm here to speak in support of the OSU-Cascades' \$42 million capital request for a Student Health and Recreation Center and land reclamation as well as House Bills 3182 and 3183 the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act.

At OSU-Cascades, we do our best with limited resources to help our students thrive. Our student government supports a food pantry, housing subsidies, and childcare subsidies. Yet, we still lack a Student Health and Recreation Center – something that every other public university in Oregon has.

As student government president, I hear firsthand how this affects students. The absence of permanent and accessible mental and physical health resources makes students feel unsupported. We have one campus nurse, working limited hours and serving the entire student body alone. For mental health, students rely on one accredited counselor serving the entire student body. We are so grateful for what we can offer, however, a Health and Recreation Center would expand access to licensed medical and counseling professionals. These resources are not a privilege, but a necessity.

Students have been committed to this project for years. In 2017, they agreed to increase the Incidental Fee in order to contribute \$20 million themselves. Many of these students will never step foot into the building and use its resources during their time at OSU-Cascades. Students are continuously showing their support through words and actions; we need the state to show their commitment through actions as well. We pay attention and we notice when our state shows out for OSU-Cascades.

Thank you again for the important work you do and for listening to me today, I urge you to support this critical investment for students and economic growth in Central Oregon.