



Oregon Legislatures

To Whom It May Concern,

The best investment for our state's future is higher education. Education provides a strong workforce, builds communities, and lessens dependency on state and federal resources to live. The high cost of living combined with rising costs of college tuition and supplies makes education out of reach for many of our citizens. The Oregon Opportunity Grant allows for low- and moderate-income students a chance at success in their futures with skill and knowledge to contribute to society. The Public University Support Fund is essential to keep our universities updated, safe, and effective. Without this support, even the basic needs to maintain an educational institution will continue to fall on students and faculty. Limited faculty in old facilities leads to collateral problems such as limited courses offered, more years to obtain a 4 year degree, and lack of retention of students due to financial strain. Libraries need funding to provide OER and research resources to allow all students access to textbooks and journals.

As an educator, I see the struggle students have to maintain their pursuit for a degree due to financial strain and I find attrition in faculty due to salaries that are not keeping up with the cost of living and the demands placed on them to put in long hours and make due with limited materials and technologies. Investing in our educational system; buildings, technology, student and faculty support, libraries, and community services is a win for all Oregonians. With stronger education, our communities thrive and strengthen, we keep our graduates local with good jobs, and we establish a culture of success through education for future generations.

Please keep education at the top of the priority list for the betterment of our state and our future generations of learners.

Jeannie Bopp

Assistant Professor

Oregon Institute of Technology