



OFFICE OF  
THE  
PRESIDENT

**Dr. Adrien L. Bennings, President**

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Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

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

My name is Dr. Adrien Bennings, and I have the honor of serving as President of Portland Community College (PCC). I am writing to respectfully urge your full support for the Community College Support Fund at \$920 million for the 2025–27 biennium.

As Oregon's largest post-secondary institution, PCC serves more than 53,000 students each year. We are pleased to share that enrollment is trending upward, with a 12% increase in student FTE for Spring 2025 compared to the previous year.

PCC is one of the most diverse institutions in the state, with one-third of our students identifying as people of color, and we are a designated emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution. Our service district spans five counties and includes four campuses, ten centers, and programs at four correctional facilities. With over 3,500 employees, PCC is also one of the largest employers in the Portland region.

The economic impact of our work is profound. According to a 2023 study by Lightcast, every \$1 invested in PCC generates up to \$8 in benefits through increased earnings, business growth, and social savings. In a single year, PCC alumni added \$1.9 billion to the regional economy - an economic boost comparable to hosting the Super Bowl five times. PCC's total annual contribution to Oregon's economy is \$2.3 billion, supporting more than 25,000 jobs and accounting for approximately 1.4% of the Portland Metro Region's gross regional product. Statewide, Oregon's community colleges contributed \$9.6 billion to the economy.

Importantly, PCC serves as a gateway to opportunity for thousands of Oregonians. Community colleges are central to Oregon's talent pipeline, especially in high-demand fields such as manufacturing, healthcare, and technology. Our programs help tackle some of Oregon's biggest challenges, from building housing through Pre-Trades and Welding programs to addressing healthcare and behavioral health shortages through our Nursing, Dental Assisting, and Addictions Counseling programs.

An investment in PCC and Oregon's community colleges is an investment in the strength, resilience, and future of our communities.

I'd like to close with one of my favorite phrases: One together, together one. Together, we can make a meaningful impact on the future of Oregon's next generation—but we cannot do it without your support.

Thank you for your time, your partnership, and your commitment to Oregon's students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Adrien L. Bennings, President  
Portland Community College