



November 15, 2018

Governor Brown
State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing to urge you to fully fund the Higher Education Coordination Commission (HECC) recommendation of \$787 million for community colleges in your upcoming budget. Across Oregon, community colleges are the backbone of their communities. In large and small communities alike, Oregon's seventeen community colleges succeed in preparing a skilled workforce; providing a critical bridge between K-12 education and costly four-year universities.

As the CEO of a local business employing 93 individuals from throughout the Valley, I know first-hand the importance and need for a skilled workforce. Sourcing skilled employees is paramount to my organization's ability to offer best-in-class service to our members, to remain financially successful, and to actively engage with and contribute to our community. Linn Benton Community College provides essential education and job training critical to local employers such as myself.

Attempting to craft and balance the State's budget is not an enviable position. When considering what to fund, I want to encourage funding Oregon's community colleges, including LBCC, as they directly contribute to the economic vitality of our region. With over 18,000 people taking classes at LBCC each year pursuing 85 different degrees and certificates, your constituents are upskilled and/or gainfully employed and paying critical revenue to the state in the form of taxes.

If we truly want Oregon to be "Future Ready" we must fund community colleges to ensure all Oregonians have a pathway to success. Funding the Higher Education Coordination Commission (HECC) will be a plan for prosperity by providing more programs and services for students while working to eliminate the ever-growing share of the financial burden placed upon those seeking higher education. I urge you to make community colleges and the Oregonians they serve a top priority in your budget by supporting the Higher Education Coordinating Commission recommendation of \$787 million, which will equip Oregon to be "Future Ready."

Sincerely,

Stacie Wyss-Schoenborn
President/CEO
Central Willamette Credit Union