
August 14, 2014

Blue Mountain Community College

Central Oregon Community College

Chemeketa Community College

Clackamas Community College

Clatsop Community College

Columbia Gorge Community College

Eastern Oregon University

Klamath Community College

Lane Community College

Linn-Benton Community College

Mount Hood Community College

Oregon Coast Community College

Oregon Institute of Technology

Oregon State University

Portland Community College

Portland State University

Rogue Community College

Southern Oregon University

Southwestern Oregon Community College

Tillamook Bay Community College

Treasure Valley Community College

Umpqua Community College

University of Oregon

Western Oregon University

Dear Chair Nesbitt, Commissioners, and Executive Director Cannon:

Oregon's public university and community college presidents appreciated the opportunity to provide the Higher Education Coordinating Commission information in preparing the agency request budget which is due to the Governor in August, 2014. Through our collaborative work, Oregon's post-secondary education institutions have identified a shared and significant concern in meeting the needs of students.


While we recognize and respect the limitations placed on the Commission by the Governor, a budget request that is capped at a 20% increase will not allow us to account for ongoing tuition relief, adequately prepare tomorrow's workforce, and secure the necessary funds to meet Oregon's 40/40/20 goal. This funding limitation will hamper our ability to increase enrollment of Oregon students and the rate of timely degree completion.

The Commission must consider the budget for Oregon's post-secondary education institutions in light of the Commission's statutory charge to recommend the investments that are needed to "achieve state post-secondary education goals" as referenced in ORS 351.735(3)(b). In this light, the Commission should recommend an investment of no less than \$650 million for the Community College Support Fund and no less than \$755 million for the Public University Support Fund. *This level of funding for the Public University Support Fund, when adjusted for enrollment growth and inflation, is still below the amount appropriated by the legislature in 2007. Similarly, when adjusted for inflation, the \$650 million for community colleges is less than the funding level per student funded by the 2007 Legislature. As you are aware, the specific student population that will need to be served in order to meet the state's goals will require more extensive services to be successful, thus these higher levels of funding.*

This \$1.4 billion combined investment will enable Oregon's colleges and universities to make substantial progress toward achieving the goals established by the legislature when it passed SB 253 (40-40-20 goal) in 2011. We believe the Commission acknowledged this imperative when it adopted its strategic plan earlier this year.

We appreciate your consideration of this important request and look forward to a continued partnership to help improve opportunities for Oregon students.

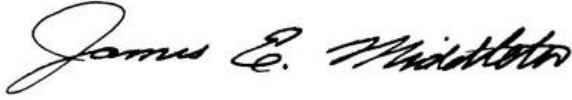
Sincerely,



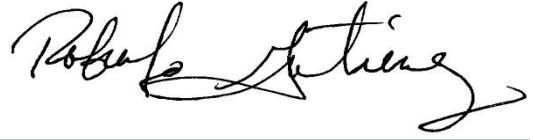
President, Blue Mountain Community College



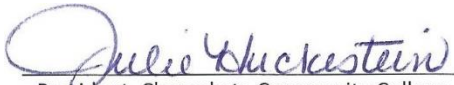
President, Eastern Oregon University



President, Central Oregon Community College



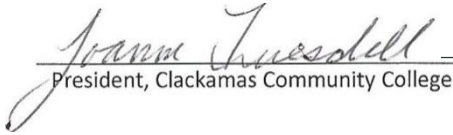
President, Klamath Community College



President, Chemeketa Community College



President, Lane Community College



President, Clackamas Community College



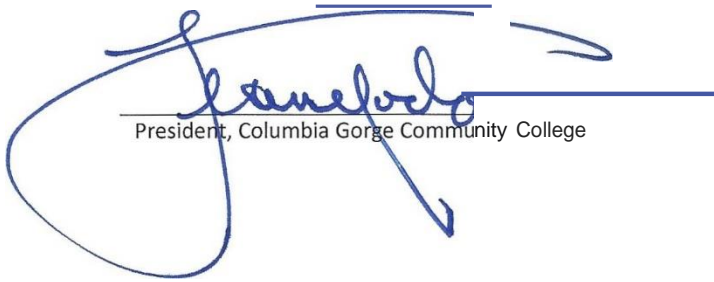
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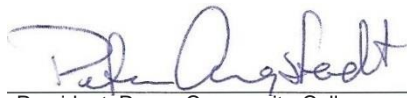
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