



OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION ON BUDGET AND REVENUE

WHEREAS the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the Oregon Community College Association recommends that community colleges be funded in 2019-2021 at a level of \$787 million, and

WHEREAS the Oregon Community College Association recommended budget allocation of \$787 million would allow for \$70 million in career technical education (CTE) programs (which would double the number of graduates, an additional 7,900) and \$70 million in student support (which would expand wrap-around services to 17,900 students) for Oregon's 17 community colleges, and

WHEREAS the Governor's investment budget fully funds the community college base budget at \$647 million and invests \$70 million to double the number of community college CTE graduates statewide, and

WHEREAS the Governor's investment budget recognizes the need for additional revenue to provide adequate and stable funding across the education continuum, and

WHEREAS if Oregon is serious about addressing the challenges of reducing student debt, achieving greater economic fairness, and creating better opportunities for all Oregonians, we must increase funding across the education continuum from cradle to career, and

WHEREAS meeting those challenges will require additional and stable state-level revenue, and

WHEREAS the Governor's proposed base budget for 2019-2021 includes no new revenue and only allocates \$543 million for community colleges, and

WHEREAS all Oregon community colleges will have to make up the legislative budget shortfalls from the state by raising tuition up to 17.5 percent for each year of the next biennium, and

WHEREAS, nationally, 42 percent of community college students are food insecure and 12 percent are homeless, and

WHEREAS at the base funding level Oregon community colleges would be forced to both raise tuition and make deep program cuts affecting the jobs of hundreds of hard-working, student-serving staff statewide, which reduces course offerings and services to students, and

WHEREAS 50% of Oregon's jobs are middle-skilled jobs but only 45% of those jobs are currently filled due to a skilled workforce shortage, and

WHEREAS for every dollar invested in Oregon's community colleges, taxpayers receive a cumulative value of \$3.30 over the course of students' working lives, the average annual rate of return is 8.4%, and

WHEREAS each dollar allocated beyond base funding will go directly toward lowering tuition hikes, reducing student debt, enhancing academic and career advising and thus raising graduation rates, and expanding resources for underserved communities, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Oregon Community College Association Board of Directors calls on the Oregon Legislature to find the revenue needed to fund education across the continuum, and specifically, to fund Oregon's 17 community colleges at the \$787 million level currently proposed by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in order to provide all Oregonians a pathway to the middle class.

Unanimously supported by voice vote of all 17 community colleges on February 1, 2019.