

Senator

I am the coordinator of the Dental Hygiene Program at Lane Community College. I have been a dental hygiene educator at LCC 43 years. I see that your job is tough this time of year but ask that you consider my perspective. Dental care provided by well-educated dental hygienists from community colleges is essential to the state of Oregon. Lane's graduates usually stay in Oregon and serve patients throughout most counties. Lane has provided approximately 800 Associate of Applied Science dental hygiene graduates in the past 50 years.

I am asking your support for CTE education at the high school and community college level. Dental Hygiene requires licensure and at minimum a community college education for practice. Lane has an exemplary program, excellent graduation stats and an Oregon community college graduate has been your dental hygienist at your personal dental office.

CTE education at the high school encourages enrollment in community college educational programs. Our students at Lane are here for professional education that cannot be offered at a high school but can be achieved at Lane Community College. We are currently working on a new partnership for CTE with Cottage Grove high school to add a dental sterilization tech to the CCTE program using the south lane dental clinic on the LCC campus. This new professional designation will give entry level experiences and certification that can serve dental office need for beginning skills employment.

Currently the cost of dental hygiene education at LCC is \$36,944 once enrolled in the 2 year program. Clinical instruction is required to be 1 instructor to 5 students from the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The program is high cost to students and the local taxpayers and state of Oregon. Student debt load is high but graduation rates and licensure is nearly at 100% annually. The professional education received at a community college needs support from the legislature.

When in Eugene drop by the LCC Dental Clinic at 2460 Willamette Street and see the facility and the dental services provided to low income citizens by DH and DA program students. This last year the clinic provided dental care to 2700 patients, we have 1300 OHP assigned patients and over 300 special need population patients. Your local community college is educating the health care workforce, caring for under served dental patients and CTE funding is essential to our student education success. Please allot funds to community college education.

Sharon Savage Hagan RDH, M.S.

Coordinator Dental Hygiene Program

Lane Community College