

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Promise is such a valuable tool to encourage students to continue their education after high school. I work at Grants Pass High School in Southern Oregon. I know you are well aware of our economic situation. Many of our students do not have the parental encouragement to continue their education, even if it is a short term training experience. We do use the FAFSA extensively and appreciate the extra funding the Oregon Promise brings to them. We also have youth that do not qualify for FAFSA and their families are unable or won't help them in any way pay for college. These students do not even attempt to proceed to college because of the fear of a debt that they possibly cannot pay. With the cost of community college increasing every year the "Have" and "Have not's" grows wider. When the students knows that there is a way to pay for the majority of the tuition, they reconsider. Many of them work and plan on working thorough their education journey. Please consider renewing the Oregon Promise it is a "Step up" not a "Hand out".

Sincerely,

*Coleen Moore*

Coleen Moore

Student Services/Aspire Coordinator/Substitute Teacher Coordinator/Career Center