From: <u>Sen Meek</u>

To: CCC Board of Education
Subject: 5/21/25 Letter to CCC Board

Date:Wednesday, May 21, 2025 4:43:20 PMAttachments:CCC Board Letter (Sen Meek).pdf

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Good afternoon,

Please find my attached letter for tonight's board meeting. I am planning to come testify in-person as well.

Thanks,

Mark

Mark Meek

State Senator, District 20 (Oregon City, Gladstone, Happy Valley) (503) 986-1720 | Sen.MarkMeek@oregonlegislature.gov

Mark Meek State Senator District 20



May 21, 2025

Clackamas Community College Board of Education 19600 Molalla Ave Oregon City, OR 97045

Dear Members of the Board,

Thank you for allowing me to testify tonight on an issue that has recently been brought to my attention by many of my constituents. There is a growing concern with the recent cancellation of adult education classes at Clackamas Community College. Specifically, there are Saturday Auto Restoration classes that many students were relying on to move forward with their educational goals.

Multiple students have reached out to share their disappointment and their concern that they may no longer be able to complete their programs on schedule. For some, this was not only a course they were excited to take, but also a key requirement for their graduation timeline. These cancellations have created significant uncertainty with their academic plans and, ultimately, their career paths.

Even when classes are not tied to credit-bearing degrees, they serve as vital educational and economic development tools. They provide learning opportunities, support career transitions and retraining, and align with the core mission of community colleges: to provide accessible, inclusive education for all learners. These community education classes are an important part of the value that CCC brings to our entire county.

I understand the difficult decisions that must be made when facing budgetary or enrollment constraints, and I recognize the challenges you are facing. However, I ask that you reconsider the elimination of these classes and other skill-based programs. These courses provide real-world training that supports our local workforce in a time when our communities need access to affordable career pathways.

I urge you to revisit this decision with a commitment to student success and equitable access to education. I am happy to discuss this further and support CCC in finding sustainable solutions that preserve opportunities for our students.

Thank you,

Mark Meek

State Senator – District 20