

April 1, 2021

Senator Jeff Merkley
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Cliff Bentz
1239 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Earl Blumenauer
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Peter DeFazio
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Kurt Schrader
2431 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the State of Oregon's Congressional Delegation:

As presidents of Oregon's private, nonprofit colleges and universities, we write to urge your leadership in enacting President Biden's proposal to double the Pell Grant maximum and ensure that investment is permanent by making the increased portion of the grant an entitlement. No greater step could be taken to increase access and success for the nearly 72,000 students who rely on Pell Grants to attend a postsecondary institution in Oregon.

This year alone, Pell Grants are providing nearly \$270 million to make college possible for students from low-income families and those who are the first in their families to pursue postsecondary education. The impact this program has had on the lives of individuals and their families, and the economic health and competitiveness of the State of Oregon, and indeed the nation, is without parallel.

Next year our nation will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Pell Grant program. It would be a fitting tribute to our state and nation to honor this pivotal milestone by doubling the program by the June 23, 2022 anniversary and tying the legacy of the Pell Grant program to the 117th Congress and the current Administration.

The private, nonprofit higher education sector in Oregon stands ready to assist you in this collective effort to ensure the Pell Grant program continues to transform the lives of the students we serve.

Sincerely,



Miles Davis
President, Linfield University
Chair, Board of Trustees
Oregon Alliance of Independent Colleges and Universities



Joseph Womack
President
Bushnell University



Lesley Hallick
President
Pacific University



Sheldon Nord
President
Corban University



Audrey Bilger
President
Reed College



Robin Baker
President
George Fox University



Rev. Mark Poorman, C.S.C
President
University of Portland



Wim Wiewel
President
Lewis & Clark College



Joseph Brimhall
President
University of Western States

Dr. G. Craig Williford

Craig Williford
President
Multnomah University



Brian Johnson
President
Warner Pacific University



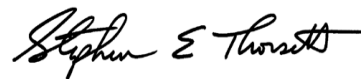
Melanie Henriksen
Interim President
National University of Natural Medicine



Charles Conniry
President
Western Seminary



David Ellis
Interim President
Pacific Northwest College of Art



Stephen Thorsett
President
Willamette University