



FUTURE READY OREGON INITIATIVE SB 1545

Oregon needs a comprehensive workforce development initiative, not only to meet the unique demands of this historical moment, but to lay the groundwork for the future sustainable, equitable success of Oregon's workforce. This is why Portland Community College supports the Future Ready Oregon initiative.

The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the existing shortage of skilled workers in Oregon's economy, and highlighted the deficiencies in our state's workforce training system – particularly with regard to how the system serves Oregonians of color, low-income Oregonians, and rural Oregonians. PCC believes that Future Ready Oregon represents not only a solution to the immediate challenges of the pandemic, but leverages existing investments and infrastructure to guide the way toward a more prosperous and equitable future. Future Ready Oregon's investments would bolster PCC's workforce training programs by strengthening and enhancing them to better transition more workers into gainful careers.



Key investments of the Future Ready Initiative for community colleges include:

\$57.7M

Leveraging Existing Successes –

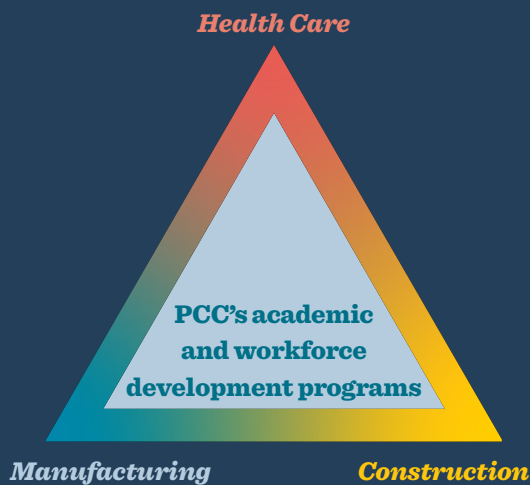
Expanding successful investments with proven track records, that would boost PCC's ability to serve members of historically underrepresented communities, in particular, strengthening the College's existing **Career Pathways Program (\$17M)**, **credit for prior learning (\$10M)**, **registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs (\$20M)**, and **youth workforce re-engagement** programs like the innovative Opening Doors program with the Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility **(\$10.5M)**.

\$95M

Competitive Workforce Readiness Grants –

This would benefit workers by increasing cross-collaborative partnerships to provide resources and address barriers in workforce training programs for underserved communities; such as PCC's partnerships with Portland Opportunity Reinvestment Inc. and Oregon Tradeswomen. Resources could bolster staffing, infrastructure, technology investments, developing culturally and linguistically appropriate education and training pathways.

For more information please contact Sage Learn,
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KEY ECONOMIC SECTORS

PCC's academic and workforce development programs intersect with the three key sectors identified by Future Ready Oregon – health care, manufacturing, and construction – in a number of ways.

PCC offers entry into gainful careers in health care via programs in nursing, medical assisting, dental hygiene, medical imaging, and more. The same is true for construction, through programs such as building construction, welding, and facilities maintenance/HVAC, as well as the College's construction-oriented apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, where students can learn to become electricians or carpenters. In manufacturing, PCC offers programs in machine manufacturing, diesel service, and aviation maintenance, and apprenticeship programs in advanced manufacturing, industrial mechanics, and more.

CAREER PATHWAYS

Future Ready Oregon would enable Oregon's community colleges to build on the established success of the Career Pathways program, a statewide initiative with a nearly two-decade track record of successfully fast-tracking Oregonians into family-wage careers. Career Pathways supports historically underserved communities – which are at the heart of Future Ready Oregon – through its Integrated Education and Training options. These enable non-native English speakers; high-school equivalency graduates; and students who need extra support in reading, writing, and math to integrate their basic studies with their workforce training. The program boasts a statewide graduation rate of 89%.

Program advisors help students to identify their career of choice, and a slate of wraparound services support them as they accumulate a series of stackable credentials that lead to a degree or a career. The program's success is based in part on its partnerships with manufacturing leaders like Vigor Industrial and the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center in Scappoose.

Outcomes from two recent Career Pathway cohorts, Healthcare Careers and Maritime Welding, that began Fall 2019 and completed Winter 2020.

88%

of students completed a Career Pathways Certificate

90%

of BIPOC students completed a Career Pathways Certificate

BUILDING ON SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

Future Ready Oregon represents an unprecedented opportunity to extend the transformative power of education to our state's most vulnerable citizens – people like **Shalease Williams**.

Shalease was a stay-at-home mom who learned about PCC Career Pathways through the College's partnership with Albina Head Start. She completed the Healthcare Careers Certificate as part of a cohort of Career Pathway students, supported by the Career Pathway team. Shalease continued her education and has since completed her Associate's degree in General Studies, and is on her way to a more prosperous future.

