



# NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 4, 2014

CONTACT: Lindsey O'Brien (503) 986-1907  
or [lindsey.obrien@state.or.us](mailto:lindsey.obrien@state.or.us)

## ‘Aspiration to College’ bill passes the House

*House Bill 4116 will help more low-income, first-generation students succeed at community colleges*

SALEM – Today the Oregon House of Representatives unanimously passed House Bill 4116, the “Aspiration to College” bill, to increase support for community college students who are from low-income backgrounds or are the first in their families to attend college.

The bill provides \$750,000 for a competitive grant to develop scholarship programs and support services to help more Oregonians enroll in community colleges throughout the state and make progress toward a degree or certificate.

“I was the kind of student this program was designed to help, and I’m here to tell you that education changes lives,” said Rep. Gallegos (D – Hillsboro), chief co-sponsor of the bill. “In Hillsboro and throughout our state, I see students who have the drive, intellect, and passion to succeed in higher education, but they’re too often held back due to family finances and unfamiliarity with the college process.”

The programs funded by HB 4116 are modeled after Portland Community College’s successful Future Connect program, which provides two years of individualized academic advising, career-guidance classes, and access to tutoring for low-income and first generation students. Future Connect students in solid academic standing are retained at rates three times higher than those who don’t receive the services offered in the program.

“Today we took a smart step to ensure our region’s economic strength by helping build a diverse and skilled workforce,” Rep. Gallegos said.

HB 4116 now heads to the Senate for consideration.

###