



*From the  
Office of Representative Hoa Nguyen*

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**Rep. Hoa Nguyen Leads Discussion on the State of Education.**

*This month, Nguyen moderated a discussion with Dr. Charlene Williams about the state of Education in Oregon.*

**SALEM, Ore. – Rep. Hoa Nguyen (D-East Portland and Damascus)**, a first-term legislator, current school board member, and the daughter of Vietnamese refugees, explored the educational challenges and opportunities facing Oregon’s students, educators, and families during a conversation hosted by Portland City Club and Portland Community College.

“As a former educator and school board member, I know the work we do often extends beyond the classroom and depends on the entire community around the students in our schools,” said Rep. Nguyen. “The state must remain focused on supporting Oregon’s education system in ways that improve outcomes for students no matter the community. It’s important that we come together as a community to continue talking about the current system and how we can make it better.”

The event brought together more than 70 people which include education officials, families, and students for an in-depth conversation on a wide range of topics relevant to Oregon schools. Oregon Department of Education Director Dr. Charlene Williams joined Nguyen and outlined how the agency is incorporating community input in designing strategies to improve educational outcomes. She also emphasized the need to consistently fund high leverage initiatives such as Early Literacy and Summer Learning.

“We need to encourage the conditions that lead students to show up to school on an everyday basis. We also need to create culturally responsive systems for adults,” said Dr. Williams.

Dr. Williams and Rep. Nguyen made time for students from across the state to share their opinions on the state of education in their respective schools. Students shared their deep appreciation for the availability of career preparation and elective courses at their schools. They also shared their concerns with the level of support available to educators, noting the high levels of burnout and rate of turnover amongst teachers across the state. Students and audience members also expressed concerns regarding chronic absenteeism, one of several topics Rep. Nguyen and the Oregon Legislature are working to address during the interim and the 2025 legislative session.

To see the full State of Education event, click [here](#) or visit [pdxcityclub.org](http://pdxcityclub.org).

To learn more about Rep. Nguyen and the legislature’s work on strengthening Oregon’s education system, visit [oregonlegislature.gov/nguyen](http://oregonlegislature.gov/nguyen).

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