

August 6, 2020

Oregon DCBS, Building Codes Division
Attn: Laura Burns
PO Box 14470
Salem, OR 97309-0404

via email: Laura.L.Burns@oregon.gov

Dear BCD staff and members of the rulemaking advisory committee,

I understand you are in the process of collecting feedback on proposed rules that regulate minimum certification requirements for building officials.

Since 1978 Chemeketa Community College has offered a 2-year Associate of Applied Science degree in Building Inspection Technology. In 2016 the program was restarted after a brief hiatus due to the Great Recession. I am the Director of the program, which is housed in the Polk Center in Dallas Oregon.

When we restarted the program, we formed a 10-member advisory committee made up primarily of building officials from all over Oregon. We meet quarterly and as needed. We completely revamped and modernized the curriculum based on feedback from the advisory committee.

As you consider rules that impact certification requirements for building officials or other code professionals, please consider Chemeketa's program as a resource with a fully accredited program focused directly on providing the knowledge, skills and abilities for future code professionals.

Specific to Building Officials, we offer 8 credit hours over two terms specifically around Building Department Administration. This is reinforced with a summer practicum. Students learn to manage meetings, create budgets, solve human resource related issues, customer service best practices, and many other skills needed. Upon completion of these classes students test for the ICC Certified Building Official Legal Module and Management Module. These exams are built into the curriculum. These classes and related certification exams are very challenging and significantly raise the bar.

In addition, the 2-year degree includes testing for eight ICC certifications. Students who graduate are well qualified as code professionals. Please do not disregard the focused 2-year degree in Building Inspection Technology which includes specific training for the ICC Certified Building Official certification.

Thank you for your consideration,

Glen Miller
Director, Chemeketa Community College, Polk