Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission
255 Capitol Street NE, Third Floor
Salem, OR 97310

January 4, 2018

Dear Members of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission,

For most of my life, I have deeply regretted not graduating from college. When I was younger, I thought one day I would go back…but as a single mother of two with no outside financial support, there were always more pressing issues. Through the years I jumped around from job to job, and was consistently passed over for leadership roles because of my lack of a degree. When an opportunity came along for me to open my own business, I jumped at it. Despite the hard work and perseverance, I just didn't have the business skills or the confidence to make it work.

When I started the I & L program a little over a year ago, I was at a very low point in my life. I was newly empty nested, and had just moved to Ashland from Portland with no idea what I would do next. The program gave me structure, a path, and exciting explorations of all sorts. More than anything, going through the I&L program has given me the confidence to know that I can take my intelligent, creative, and energetic self out into the world and make a meaningful contribution. It has also given me an opportunity to meet and form sincere and collaborative relationships with other adults in my cohort. As a group, we have struggled, grown and blossomed. Together and individually we have stepped into our power!

In June, I will graduate from college. It's a game changer….and for this, I am deeply grateful.

Most Sincerely,

Dianna H. Glick