

Chair Bryant, Vice-chair Rives, Executive Director Cannon, and Members of the Commission, Good morning. My name is Addie Howell. I am a Junior at Oregon State University and I addressed this committee on December 14th, during the HECC Full Commission meeting about Oregon State's approach to Willamette Promise credits. At that meeting, the commission asked for an update from the student perspective regarding the process of how Willamette Promise Credits transferred to Oregon State. I am here now to give you that update. Since December, I have continued to work to receive recognition of my Willamette Promise Credits from Oregon State, and while this process has been tedious, I am glad to say that it does finally feel like a solution is within reach, but that solution still has not become a reality. Recently, I have been in close contact with administrators in the Oregon State Writing Department, and I am currently working on getting the signatures to finalize the paperwork so that I can take a test that is proctored by the university to see if I qualify to get my Writing 1 requirement waived. Unfortunately, at this time, Oregon State still does not recognize Willamette Promise credits as actual writing credits, but it is offering a way for students to have the Writing 1 requirement waived. Since I last spoke with this committee, I have worked with five different Oregon State administrators. While working with each of these administrators, I was presented with different and contradictory information on solutions, but ultimately I felt like I kept getting passed around. I have been very vocal with the individuals at Oregon State that I have been working with about how frustrating and confusing this struggle has been. It does seem like they are making head way on trying to streamline this process, but ultimately it feels like there is a lack of communication between different departments within the university on this matter. As I stated before,

this has been very frustrating, and many times I have felt like I have hit institutional barriers and dead ends in trying to find a solution. I almost gave up a few times, but I am committed to finding a solution. I do worry about this situation and its impact on students who do not share the same drive, and who do not have support systems that enable them to advocate for themselves. As I have shared with Oregon State, this endeavor is not something that I enjoy doing, as I love Oregon State and hate being at odds with the university, but I hope that my struggle will provide a clearer path for Willamette Promise students who follow behind me. I have told Oregon State administrators this, but I want to reiterate it here once more. I believe Willamette Promise provides a great opportunity for students in areas that have been traditionally been under-served by other high school college credit programs. I believe this program has the ability to continue to expand accessibility and equity in college credit for high school students. In the future, I hope Oregon State and Willamette Promise can work to make the transfer of credits seamless and remove this burden from students. I am confident that with the great minds working on both sides of this issue that this hope can become a reality, and I look forward to continuing to be an advocate for students in this process, and to being a part of final solution. Thank you.