



8 August 2022
Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission
3225 25th St. SE
Salem, OR 97302

To the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission:

Lane Community College is excited and grateful that the Commission recently (June 9) approved our Statement of Need of the Bachelors of Applied Science in Business. Expanding the accessibility of Bachelor's degrees in Oregon through the community colleges is a proven strategy for building communities and expanding higher education to diverse populations. We are thankful for the opportunity to be part of this movement in Oregon.

During the 90-day comment period we have been active in continuing to develop our program proposal and coordinate with higher education community partners on how to ensure the curriculum meets the needs of our local employers and students. We look forward to bringing the complete proposal to the Commission in the fall.

Representatives from Lane Community College recently met with representatives of the Oregon Alliance of Independent Colleges and Universities (Alliance) to discuss Lane's proposed Bachelor of Applied Science in Business degree (BAS). The meeting highlighted the opportunity an applied bachelor's degree provides for non-traditional students, and our shared interest in providing students with clear and seamless pathways into graduate programs of Alliance members, in particular local options Bushnell University and Pacific University.

The only concern the Alliance raised during our meeting revolved around the program name. The Alliance expressed an interest in assuring that the program name was clear for students. The Lane Community College business faculty will incorporate the Alliance's concerns and suggestions in continuing discussions when they return to work in the fall. It was reassuring to hear that this was the only Alliance concern and that the majority of our collective energy moving forward can focus on how to help students succeed together.

Lane Community College business faculty undertook extensive research to align the program's name with other Bachelor of Applied science degrees in the business discipline throughout the country and are confident that the program name and design will help clearly target and support diverse students who are looking to expand their skills from Associate degree completion into an Applied Bachelor's degree.

Lane Community College is excited about working with the Alliance in developing meaningful degree paths that mutually benefit our students and institutions. We feel our meeting with the Alliance and other partners started a productive discussion about how we might better serve our students through Lane's 4-year degree initiative and look forward to future conversations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grant Matthews", is written over a horizontal line.

Grant Matthews, MPA
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