

## Message from MHCC President Dr. Lisa Skari to Community Members

Members of the MHCC Community,

I wanted to reach out at what is a critical time for this college. Hard, emotional decisions are being made as we look at how we can continue to serve our students in a way that best reflects the mission of our institution.

At the Jan. 15 board meeting, the District Board of Education voted to “phase out” seven academic programs. They include:

- Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair (*The college will continue to provide its automotive degree programs include FORD ASSET, Chrysler CAP, Subaru-U and IMPORT programs.*)
- Broadcasting
- Business Technology
- Cosmetology
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Practical Nursing (*The college will continue to provide its RN and CNA programs.*)
- Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education

The college will now work with faculty in making sure students within those programs are able to achieve their educational goals.

We are also faced with a budget deficit of \$2.8 million. As you know, actions resulting from the academic revitalization process is only going to solve a portion of this issue. The non-academic revitalization process will soon launch. We need to deal with this reality in a way that not only solves the problem in front of us now, but also in a way that keeps us financially sustainable well into the future.

The challenges of education funding in our state are not new. Unfortunately, we are at a crossroads where cuts can no longer be avoided. We are not alone in this situation - enrollment continues to be a major concern among all colleges in Oregon, and across the nation. Along with this, we see no immediate changes on the horizon for Oregon’s funding of community colleges. This means the revenue picture continues to be bleak, and we must prepare.

It is evident that every member of this community is committed to what is best for our students and the college – even if we have different ideas of how we get there. I hope that there can be an understanding that we have taken these steps with this best interest in mind to balance our budget, ensure MHCC is financially stable and is here to serve students for unlimited decades into the future. We will keep you updated as we continue to work through these processes, and very much value your support at this crucial time.

Lisa Skari  
President  
Mt. Hood Community College

