In recognition of the central role that Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) has in meeting the educational and training needs in our community and, more broadly, in contributing to an educated U.S. citizenry and a competitive workforce, we pledge to do our part to increase the number of Americans with high quality postsecondary degrees and certifications to fulfill critical local, state and national goals. With the “completion agenda” as a national imperative, MHCC has an obligation to meet the challenge while holding firmly to traditional values of access, opportunity and quality.

This signed Call to Action commits MHCC to promote the development and implementation of policies, practices and institutional cultures that will produce 50 percent more students with high quality degrees and certificates by 2020. We call upon every sector and constituency of our college and community to join us in this work. Our democracy needs every one of us.

WE BELIEVE

- We believe the student success and completion agenda is the future of Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC).
- We believe that completion matters and that every student counts.
- We believe in every student’s potential and responsibility to succeed – and that an engaged student is more likely to persist in college.
- We believe the “open door” must not be a “revolving door,” and that MHCC must take responsibility for student success.
- We believe that community colleges are the gateways to the middle class and beyond for millions of Americans.
- We believe that community colleges are an invaluable economic, engine driving the nation toward renewed and sustained economic prosperity.
- We believe the talented and committed people working “heart and soul” at MHCC are ready to take on leadership roles to increase student success and college completion.

WE COMMIT

- We commit to a change in institutional culture, from emphasis on access only to emphasis on access and success.
- We commit to courageous conversations about diversity, equity and evidence reflecting student success and institutional performance.
- We commit, while increasing success rates for all students, to eliminating the attainment gaps that separate student groups on the basis of race, ethnicity and family income.
- We commit to acting on facts to make positive changes in the interest of student success and college completion.
- We commit to promoting faculty and staff development focused on evidence based educational practice.
- We commit to providing development opportunities, for college administrators, board members, faculty, staff and students to build and sustain leadership for student success.

WE ASK

- We ask every board member, administrator, faculty member, counselor, adviser, financial aid officer, staff member and stakeholder to examine current practices, identify ways to help students understand the added value of degrees and certifications and help them progress toward their goals.
- We ask every student to help one other student succeed.
- We ask community members to support and work with MHCC to help more students succeed.
- We ask elected officials to create the policy conditions that enable, support and reward community colleges in their work to strengthen student success.
- We ask every college stakeholder to help share this commitment and call to action.

Chair, Board of Education
Date: 11-10-10

President/

WE ASK