Higher Education Coordinating Commission
775 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Joint Boards Articulation Committee,

I would like to offer my support of the proposed Associate of Science Oregon Transfer degree in Computer Science (ASOT-CS). The proposed degree program will enable seamless transition between Oregon's community colleges and Oregon's public universities for students studying computer science, a field where Oregon industry faces a critical workforce shortage.

Oregon has the 4th largest concentration of application developers per capita of any state in the nation—10,800 Oregon developers with an economic impact of $526 million. Computing jobs are also growing at 4.2x the state average. There are currently 8,004 open computing jobs in Oregon (not limited to application developers), yet there were only 374 computer science graduates in Oregon last year.

At Maps Credit Union, the last time we posted a job opening for a developer, we only received five applications in three months. Of those five applicants, none were qualified, and one would have required sponsoring an H-1B visa. We ultimately hired an out of state employee who works for us remotely. I support remote workers, but with computing jobs paying 75 percent more than the national median salary, it would be beneficial to Oregon's economy to educate more of these students and support the growth of these jobs in our state.

This proposed program will improve the visibility of computer science as a degree and career pathway in Oregon. It will benefit students by increasing access to financial aid throughout the community college program, and by providing clear advising pathways to computer science baccalaureate programs at public universities statewide. The increased access will give more opportunities for students to graduate and become successful employees at Maps Credit Union and in the state of Oregon. I look forward to the creation of such opportunities for both current and future students through the ASOT-CS degree.

Sincerely yours,

Loren Paulsen
Software & Systems Development Manager
Maps Credit Union