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Mitchel Fry <frym@mail.wou.edu>

Another letter of support
1 message

Long, Juliet <jlong@roguecc.edu>   Wed, Oct 22, 2014 at 11:27 AM
To: Mitchel Fry <frym@mail.wou.edu>

From: John LEE [mailto:john.lee@foliumpartners.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 11:25 AM
To: Long, Juliet
Subject: Re: Quick favor?

Hi, Juliet–

Thanks for giving me an opportunity to express my excitement regarding the new 2-year transfer degree program for Computer Science students.

Oregon and other states are clamouring for entry-level knowledge workers. Here in southern Oregon, our small software startup company knows the difficulties of building a business without local access to this class of labor. The new transfer degree program ought to alleviate these problems and should provide a stable base of software engineers and web developers in the coming years.

The history of Silicon Valley clearly shows a heavy reliance on startup labor, which is often defined as younger, freshly degreed from local universities, and less expensive labor than the more experienced engineers. In using the transfer incentive to increase the flow of students into their own Computer Science tracts, our community colleges are making a smart bet—and this should pay off for our regional economies as graduates take their place in the workforce. Though the effects may not be fully measurable until the first decade passes, its conceivable that our CS Engineering diplomas statewide will double, making a noticeable dent in our need.

The US Bureau of Labor predicts that by 2022 there will be more than 300,000 new positions available in computer engineering, programming, network architecture, database administration, and web development. A simplified "portion" of that for our state means that we need to be training and graduating 750 additional tech-oriented students each year beginning this year. Even if we look just at our percentage of the national population, we must increase our qualified, hireable CS graduates in Oregon by nearly 470 per year.

It's an awesome assignment, and the collaboration that has resulted in your 2-into-4 program will surely be a strong part of the solution.

Congratulations for having accomplished this step. Everyone in tech startup communities around the state looks forward to seeing a well executed plan and a stream of qualified job candidates in the future.

Cheers,

John Lee

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John H. Lee, President

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