



21 March 2023

Lisa Avery, PhD  
Office of the President  
Linn-Benton Community College  
6500 Pacific Blvd.  
Albany, Oregon 97321

Dear Dr. Avery,

The Oregon chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) would like to express our support for our faculty librarian colleagues at the Linn-Benton Community College Library. The board firmly believes the decision to eliminate the faculty librarian positions will not only have a damaging effect on the library departments and services offered, but will affect the college's larger goals, including supporting student learning outcomes. The LBCC librarians are essential to the curriculum through their direct teaching and support of faculty instruction, and these cuts will have a negative impact on the college's ability to graduate information literate critical thinkers.

Librarians are trained experts in teaching information literacy and critical thinking. They ensure complex information systems are in place and properly installed to meet student and faculty research and learning needs. A qualified full-time faculty librarian adds value by providing services such as:

- Providing continuous, ongoing support for students as they move from course to course, enhancing persistence and academic success.
- Creating vital learning spaces that allow learning to continue beyond the classroom.
- Applying a depth of professional knowledge about the community and the academic curricula in order to provide a strong collection tuned to the needs of students.
- Teaching essential research skills in the classroom, one on one, and on the website — supporting research and writing goals across the curriculum.
- Helping students and faculty develop the information literacy skills that support inquiry and lifelong learning.
- Facilitating student and faculty research across disciplinary boundaries.

A library is more than its building and books. Librarians are fully-contributing members of the academic community, making sure spaces evolve to meet the changing needs of students and that the collection is useful and used. Students learn how to learn from librarians: in library instruction sessions, at the reference desk and using librarian-created tutorials and webpages.

And as a fully-contributing member of the academic community, the librarian is uniquely positioned to provide support to every department, program and faculty member on campus. As the American Association for Community Colleges' Position [Statement on Information Literacy](#) says, "*Information literacy ... is critical to success in higher education and lifelong learning.*" Without faculty librarians, your campus will lack leadership in this crucial area.

We are gravely concerned that the students and faculty of LBCC will feel this loss in too many ways to count. We urge the college to not move forward with this budget and to recognize how essential these workers are to the institution.

Sincerely,

ACRL-OR Executive Board

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