



# MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

*Rely on us.*

TO: Commissioners Carlson, Mital, Helgeson, Schlossberg and Brown  
FROM: Rene Gonzalez, Customer Solutions Manager; Jeannine Parisi, Customer Relationship Manager  
DATE: June 26, 2019  
SUBJECT: Lane Community College (LCC) Scholarships  
OBJECTIVE: Information Only

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## **Issue**

The Board requested updates on educational grants provided by EWEB. This memo provides information on the LCC grant program.

## **Background**

Like the four public school districts in EWEB's service territory, LCC receives grant funds through an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with EWEB. The IGA signed in 2015 allocated \$70,000 in annual funding to help support administration of the college's two-year energy management, buildings control technician and water conservation programs. The IGA expires in August 2020.

In June 2018, the Board modified the grant with LCC to establish a \$25,000 scholarship fund in lieu of the annual grant. The intent was to continue offering career development opportunities to students with financial need in our service territory while creating a more direct nexus to EWEB's strategic priorities.

## **Discussion**

In reviewing the first year's outcomes, scholarship uptake was slower than expected. While no students received support the first term, LCC reports that four students received partial scholarships during winter and spring 2019 terms. It is expected that the \$25,000 will be exhausted when the remaining scholarships (up to \$5000 per student) are awarded for the 2019-2020 school year. Tuition for the two-year program is estimated at \$12,000.

One unexpected outcome of EWEB's decision to transition to a scholarship program is that the Bonneville Environmental Foundation is now offering a similar scholarship for students outside EWEB service territory to participate in this nationally recognized program.

The level of funding for education grants is determined during EWEB's annual budget process.

## **Recommendation**

Given increased pressure on prices and financial metrics, as well as the narrow beneficiary group, unless otherwise directed the General Manager is recommending that the financial/budget team assume the discontinuation of funding for this program in the 2020 budget. If this plan runs contrary to Board expectations, Management requests that the Board provide direction on the continuation of the LCC scholarship program during the 2020 budget assumption agenda item.