



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

John J. "Ski" Sygielski  
*President*

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Dear Colleagues:

Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) is proud to be a tobacco-free institution since January 2010. Our policy change has created a healthier, more productive campus and, as a result, has inspired many employees to quit their addiction to tobacco.

There were many factors we considered as part of this process. Ultimately, our mission to provide a healthy and safe environment for *all* students, faculty and staff was predominant. For people with asthma and other health conditions made worse by smoke, the clouds of secondhand smoke on campus made it nearly impossible to access our facilities. Even with designated smoking areas in place, frequent complaints about exposure were received and the MHCC Board of Education determined it was necessary to change our policy.

The decision wasn't easy. And while there were bumps in the road and important lessons we learned along the way, we believe our tobacco-free policy has greatly benefited our campuses and the surrounding communities.

Attached is a case study that we hope will provide you with more details about our path to becoming tobacco-free including our process, what we learned along the way and intended/unintended outcomes.

We are happy to discuss our experience and answer any questions you may have. A great resource is June Jacobs, assistant to the president for strategic initiatives & board relations. She can be reached at [June.Jacobs@mhcc.edu](mailto:June.Jacobs@mhcc.edu) or 503-491-7210. We also invite you to visit our tobacco-free campus in Gresham any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Sygielski".

John J. "Ski" Sygielski  
President

be | your dream