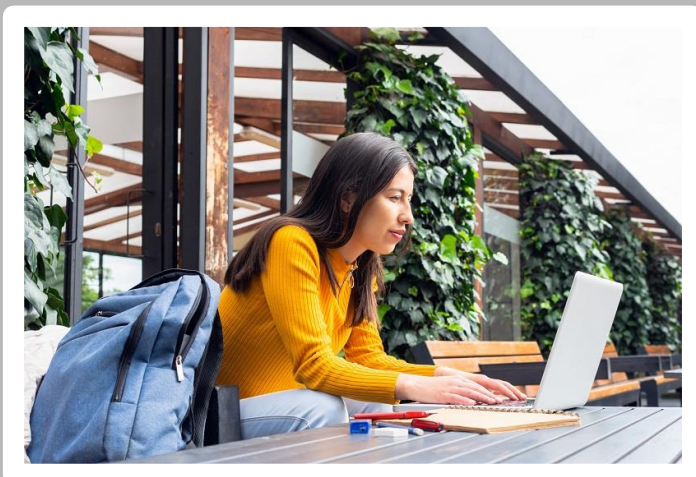


HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON INDIAN SERVICES
2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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Office of Executive Director
Higher Education Coordinating Commission
www.oregon.gov/highered



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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Patrick Flanagan, Executive Director
Legislative Commission on Indian Services
900 Court Street NE, Room 167
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Flanagan,

I am pleased to present the 2022 Legislative Commission on Indian Services Annual Report of the Higher Education Coordination Commission (HECC).

We honor the sovereignty of the nine federally-recognized Tribes in Oregon, and deeply value the opportunities we have had to work cooperatively with the educational representatives of the Tribes over the last year. This report summarizes the actions and initiatives the HECC has undertaken in 2022 to foster postsecondary education and training opportunities and pathways for tribal students and learners in Oregon. The HECC is actively serving and partnering with Tribes in Oregon in numerous ways to best address specific needs and promote opportunities for Oregon's tribal students. We are dedicated to building strong relationships with our tribal partners through consultation, communication, concrete actions, and the fulfillment of our commitments, and look forward to continuing and expanding our work together in the coming year.

We are at an exciting juncture for postsecondary education and workforce training in Oregon. This year, we have had the responsibility and honor of launching the Oregon Tribal Student Grant, a historic investment made by the 2022 Legislature to support college affordability for members of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon in 2022-23. Our Commission has requested sustained funding and permanent standing for this important program in future years. We are pleased to provide you updates in this report. In addition, the HECC has continued to advance the work of our Strategic Roadmap for Postsecondary Education and Training, through the consultative development of our Agency Budget Request for 2023-2025 investments, and more. The Roadmap is anchored in an urgent need for transformation across our higher education and workforce landscape in order to more equitably serve all Oregon communities now and in the future. As the state continues to confront challenges in access to affordable education and meaningful wrap around supports, we are pleased to share with you our strategies and actions we are undertaking to foster an accessible, affordable, equitable, and coordinated network of college and career training programs.

Should you have questions or comments regarding this report, please direct them to Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, at (503) 689-4309.

Respectfully,

Ben Cannon
Executive Director, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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ABOUT THE HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

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Major Areas	<p>The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) works to improve success in higher education and training for Oregonians by ensuring an accessible, affordable, equitable, and coordinated network of college and career training programs.</p> <p>The mission of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, derived from our chartering statutes, is to: 1) dramatically and equitably improve postsecondary educational attainment levels; 2) improve Oregon’s economic competitiveness and quality of life; and 3) ensure that Oregon students have affordable access to colleges and universities.</p>
Agency Statement	<p>The HECC envisions a future in which all Oregonians—and especially those whom our systems have underserved and marginalized—benefit from the transformational power of high-quality postsecondary education and training (from HECC Vision Statement, Strategic Framework, 2017).</p> <p>Established in 2011 and vested with its current authorities in 2013, the HECC is a 15-member volunteer commission appointed by the Oregon Governor and confirmed by the Oregon State Senate, with funding and policy responsibilities for higher education and the workforce statewide. The HECC supports postsecondary education by administering the statewide higher education and workforce budget of about \$1.8 billion per year; authorizing programs and degrees; administering statewide financial aid, workforce, and educational programs; and providing strategic guidance to state leaders. We also directly serve Oregonians by awarding grant and scholarship aid to students and connecting Oregonians with workforce and training resources. Our work is driven by the State of Oregon’s educational attainment goals for youth and adults, and by our Commission’s goals for equity, student success, affordability, and economic and community impact. To guide that work, we use the Equity Lens to help close system and opportunity gaps to achieve equitable outcomes for all.</p> <p>Oregon’s first statewide Strategic Roadmap for Postsecondary Education and Training was finalized in August, 2021. The Roadmap sets an ambitious path forward by describing how postsecondary systems, policies, and practices need to change in order to achieve Oregon’s goals for educational attainment and equity. The Roadmap also reaffirms the four key areas of strategic activity for the HECC agency in the Commission’s Strategic Framework (2017-2021): 1) REPORTING to Steer Progress 2) FUNDING for Success, 3) Streamlining Learner PATHWAYS, and 4) Expanding</p>

Opportunity through OUTREACH. These four Action Areas are aimed to achieve the Commission's Strategic Goals for STUDENT SUCCESS, EQUITY, AFFORDABILITY, and ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACT.

The Commission is supported by the state agency by the same name, comprised of eight distinct offices led by Executive Director Ben Cannon.

HECC INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES, 2022

The HECC coordinates activities with tribal partners, the Governor’s Office, the Oregon Department of Education, and numerous other education partners to foster postsecondary pathways and student success. The following are significant activities HECC has undertaken in 2022 that support postsecondary education pathways for, and honor our relationships with, the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon.

Economic Impact and HECC Role: Postsecondary education and career training can transform lives, fuel economic mobility, and strengthen communities and Oregon’s economy. From apprenticeships to short-term certificates to bachelor’s to graduate degrees—the continuum of pathways in postsecondary education and training pays off in the short- and long-term for individuals and communities. The HECC is engaged in multiple complementary strategies, many of which are summarized in this report, to improve and protect equity, affordability, and student success in postsecondary education and training, connect learners and workers with training and career opportunities, and build real opportunity for all.

The need for postsecondary education and training continues to be high; however, Oregon communities are still recovering from the economic disruptions of the pandemic. Our reports show that enrollment at public colleges and universities has not rebounded to the level seen before the pandemic. We continue to support students and families in accessing and affording college through our financial aid, outreach, and more. The Oregon Legislature made a historic investment in college access for Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribes through the funding of the Oregon Tribal Student Grant for 2022-23, and we are proud to have launched this program in close consultation with tribal representatives. HECC offices continue to lead important work to serve dislocated workers, employers, and industries, as well as continuing our partnership with Tribes for youth employment. The workforce environment is changing and adjusting to it will require many employed and unemployed workers to reskill and upskill to emerge strong. The Oregon Legislature also made a historic investment in Future Ready Oregon, a comprehensive \$200 million investment package that supports the education and training Oregonians need for family-wage careers. This package includes strategic and targeted investments focused on advancing opportunities for historically underserved communities. We are pleased to elaborate on these investments and more in this report.

Strategic Roadmap: Oregon’s [Strategic Roadmap for Postsecondary Education and Training](#) was finalized in August, 2021 after an extensive public engagement and development process that commenced in 2019. The Roadmap sets an ambitious path forward by describing how postsecondary systems, policies, and practices need to change in order to achieve Oregon’s goals for educational attainment and equity. The Roadmap sets the following five categories for strategic action as major areas of focus, with specific examples described in the document: 1) transform and innovate to serve students and learners best; 2) center higher education and workforce training capacity on current and future state needs; 3) ensure that postsecondary learners can afford to meet their basic needs; 4) create and support a continuum of pathways from education and training to career; and 5) increase public investment to meet postsecondary goals.

The Roadmap is intended to guide not only HECC initiatives, but also those of Oregon’s postsecondary education and training partners statewide. During the development of our agency budget request for 2023-25, the HECC collected input from partners on potential actions and initiatives for realizing the Strategic Roadmap and invited input from Tribes and other partners.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Equity, diversity and inclusion continue to be guiding priorities for the HECC, and we are committed to fostering our connections and collaborations between HECC and the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon. Our partners and the public can find former quarterly Government to Government updates as well as other information on work and initiatives in Coordination with Tribes located in the [Equity and Student Success section](#) of the HECC website at: www.oregon.gov/HigherEd.

Participation in Government-to-Government Education Cluster and convenings: The Executive Director has prioritized participation in the Government-to-Government (G2G) Education Cluster and has committed that either he or his appointee will attend each quarterly gathering. Over the past year Executive Director Ben Cannon and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom have attended Education Cluster meetings, to which the agency provides thorough written updates on recent activity. This summer HECC staff had opportunities to meet and work with several of our tribal partners, including visits to Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and Coquille Indian Tribe. Visits allow us to build relationships and work directly with tribal partners on grant programs and awards, such as the Oregon Tribal Student Grant and the Oregon Youth Corps (OYC). HECC staff hope to continue visiting and learning from our tribal partners and finding ways to collaborate and improve our processes. We extend gratitude for hosting us. The HECC also continues serving on the Oregon Department of Education's American Indian/Alaskan Native State Plan Advisory Committee providing supports and post-secondary perspective as needed. We have had the pleasure in 2022 of consulting the G2G Education Cluster in the development of the new Tribal Student Grants and its rules development in order to get the new funds to the students.

Equity leadership: The Oregon Legislature in 2020 funded two positions to support the HECC's diversity, equity, and inclusion work. In 2021, these new roles were hired and immediately began planning for deeper engagement efforts for the agency. In addition to the HECC's first Director of DEI, the new Inclusion and Equity Specialists are supporting current efforts in addition to enhancing our engagement efforts with community partners and students. Since she joined HECC in 2019, Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the HECC, has been working with and collaborating with our partners and staff on the HECC's internal and external goals and initiatives related to racial justice and equity. In 2022, the HECC continued its intentional examination of its equity processes, levels of understanding of how to authentically engage in the work and identifying what was needed to strengthen the agency's long-standing commitment to equity and partnership with higher education institutions and other state agencies. Internally, agency leadership has adopted four overarching equity goals that continue in the consistency and accountability to the HECC's work and operationalizing of our [Equity Lens](#). This has taken the form of new Equity Action Plans for each office, the creation of a new Equity Impact Protocol, and now the evaluation and establishing of a new metrics to evaluation agency progress. Externally, collaboration and network building took on a new normal with consistent participation in virtual events and the creation of spaces that allowed for new relationships to be formed and for our work to continue. The HECC not only collaborates with our postsecondary partners, but also supports and takes part in the equity and racial justice work along with other state agencies. The HECC has also begun to reach out to the nine federally recognized Tribes individually in the effort to continue building relationships that move beyond the Education Cluster meetings. It is our hope to have deeper understanding and collaborations for 2023.

REPORTING DATA AND ANALYSIS ON POSTSECONDARY TRENDS, DISAGGREGATED BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Fourth annual "Statewide Higher Education Snapshots" highlight key metrics on Oregon institutions and students:

Over 285,800 students were enrolled at public community colleges and universities in 2020-21. However, large percentages of Oregon learners face affordability challenges and serious inequities in education and training, including in graduation. These and other insights are evident in the HECC's fourth annual Statewide Higher Education Snapshots, a set of 27 one-page reader-friendly summaries on Oregon's postsecondary learners in 2020-21. The Snapshots answer frequently asked data questions on enrollment, affordability, and outcomes regarding Oregon public postsecondary students—with break-outs by race/ethnicity and first-generation status, among others. By clicking on the locations of interest on the Oregon map here, readers can explore all Snapshots, including statewide data summaries (the statewide summary, community college summary, and public university summary), as well as 24 individual Snapshots for each of Oregon's public postsecondary education institutions.

The Key Performance Metrics for the HECC include numerous measures disaggregated by race/ethnicity.

See a summary of the most recent KPM report summary here. Fourteen of the HECC KPMs provide a dashboard to track progress toward the state's educational attainment goal (40-40-20) and toward closing the gaps in achieving that goal equitably.

FUNDING FOR EQUITY AND STUDENT SUCCESS

The HECC continues to apply our Equity Lens to funding decisions, policies, and proposals, and the Commission adopted an update version of the Lens in 2021.

A focus on equitable outcomes and community engagement helped guide the postsecondary education and training budget development Process for 2023-2025.

State Budget: Between January and June 2022, HECC submitted an engagement plan to the Governor's Racial Justice Council. This plan laid out the process in which HECC staff and offices would identify new external partners and begin building the connections needed to inform our work. HECC staff engaged in advisory meetings, hosted webinars, participated in events that would allow us to ask for meaningful feedback into what we would ask for in our Agency Request Budget.

At its August 11 public meeting, the HECC approved its comprehensive postsecondary education Agency Request Budget (ARB) for 2023-25. HECC's state budget recommendation calls for a large increase in spending on higher education to support the transformative change needed to improve equity and affordability in postsecondary education and training for all Oregonians. The ARB focuses the vast majority of new state funds on state-funded financial aid to students and equity strategies to align with the important developing work of the Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students. HECC has recommended public university and community college funding levels designed generally to sustain those institutions' program and service levels without the need for major tuition increases. Some of the largest proposals are briefly summarized below.

- \$40 million General Funds (GF) to the Oregon Tribal Student Grant (established in 2022) to continue this newly launched grant as a permanent program and continue to serve new and existing eligible tribal students.
- \$789 million Total Funds (TF) increase above the 2021-23 state budget in financial aid funding to increase student support and adjust the design of the primary state grant programs for equity and access.

This would increase Oregon Opportunity Grant funding by nearly four-fold (373 percent), serving many more students and increasing current award amounts to meet a higher percentage of college costs at public institution rates for the highest need students. The grant would be awarded in tiered award amounts based on student needs and sector costs and would add more flexibility to award nontraditional learners such as those who attend less than half time. The proposal also adds targeted awards to students near completion to incentivize graduation. The Oregon Promise investment would roughly double the program's funding (103 percent increase), and policy changes would increase eligibility so the award may be accessed by a larger number of students by removing of the current 2.0 GPA requirement, removing the discounting of accelerated credit prior to Oregon Promise, and allowing students broader college access options to use the grant at any eligible Oregon postsecondary institution, including four-year colleges/universities.

- \$100 million GF new funding for equity strategies to carry out the recommendations of the Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education. Institutional operations funding including:
- \$205 million GF increase (29.5 percent above the 2021-23 state budget) to sustain operational and educational funding for the 17 community colleges through the Community College Support Fund (CCSF), bringing it to \$905 million. Because \$50 million of that would represent one-time funding, the base (i.e., ongoing) CCSF level would be \$855 million, or 20.1 percent above 2021-23.
- \$92 million GF increase (10.3 percent above the 2021-23 state budget) to sustain operational and educational funding for the seven public universities through the Public University Support Fund (PUSF), bringing it to \$992 million.

The HECC submitted the ARB on September 1, 2022. We look forward to the release of Governor-elect Kotek's Recommended Budget, and the subsequent deliberations and decisions of the Oregon Legislature. We sincerely thank our many partners who have provided us with input that helped us improve these proposals over the course of their development.

RECENT EQUITY AND STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The HECC's commitment to equity informs policy decision making, funding recommendations, ongoing programs as well as special initiatives. The HECC [Equity and Student Success initiatives web page](#) describes agency efforts to support institutions and partners in equitably serving historically underrepresented populations.

Talent, Innovation, and Equity ("TIE") Sustainability: Building off the statewide convenings supported in past years by the Talent, Innovation, and Equity grant from Lumina Foundation, HECC is revamping its Leadership Council for Equity (LCE), a council of community partners who help raise state awareness about the inequities that affect historically marginalized and underserved students. The HECC TIE strategy was to develop a Leadership Council for Equity (LCE). This group started in 2020, but lost momentum due to the Covid crisis, and we are pleased to report we are relaunching it. When established it was originally comprised of culturally specific community organizations and educational leaders from 2-year and 4-year, public and private institutions, aimed to aid in the accomplishment of the TIE Partnership goals. In 2022, the LCE was re-established in November 2022, with the goals to provide insight, advice, and guidance to the HECC agency and staff in efforts to close achievement gaps and align to the goals of our Strategic Roadmap. The LCE members will provide insight to various HECC-supported postsecondary education policy developments for the

2023 Oregon Legislation session around financial aid, transferability, youth employment and workforce training programs aimed to improve support and outcomes for equity populations, rural, and low-income learners. HECC recognizes the contributions and advocacy the LCE provided to the successful legislation and budget outcomes supporting Oregon’s postsecondary education and workforce training programs in 2022. Our intention is to continue to build upon TIE efforts with the American Indian/Alaska Native Plan supported by the Oregon Department of Education. We provide support and perspective in the implementation of the postsecondary education goals for this plan. This partnership leverages the messaging, supports, and connection to our students before they choose their postsecondary pathway and allows us to amplify the importance of higher education for our underserved student groups. HECC continues to support this advisory group with their mission and vision as collaborators and thought partners on transition points for postsecondary education or workforce training programs. In addition to the LCE, the HECC regularly convenes an **Equity Advisory Council (EAC)**, comprised of DEI experts and leaders from across the 17 public institutions who provide regular insight and input.

Educator equity, and cultural competency: The HECC collaborates with state and institution partners on implementing cultural competency standards and diversifying the educator workforce.

2022 Educator Equity Report Highlights Diversification Efforts: The Educator Advancement Council recently announced the release of the 2022 Educator Equity Report focused on educator workforce diversification efforts in Oregon. This year's report provides an updated review of research on recruitment and retention for educator diversity, recent data on educator preparation and licensure programs, and recommendations for Oregon policymakers, education agencies, and university educator preparation programs. The report emphasizes the continued importance of this work, with the data following a consistent trend—while the numbers of racially and ethnically diverse students and teachers continue to slowly increase, diverse student population growth is growing at the same or a higher rate, meaning the demographic gap is not being closed. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission has an important role to play in this work. The Commission currently reviews Educator Equity Plans for each public educator preparation program. In light of data which suggests that enrollment of diverse educator candidates is improving while program completion is not, HECC and partners are focusing on supporting continuous improvement of program quality and student learning experiences that contribute to greater retention and completion. This focus on program quality is rooted in systems change approach which recognizes that addressing institutional and structural practices impacting diverse educators is critical to eliminating disparity, disproportionality, and predictability in outcomes.

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS

HECC continues working to expand and protect college affordability through our ongoing administration of financial aid and access programs as well as new initiatives. Go to OregonStudentAid.gov to learn more and apply for grants and scholarships.

Students Can Still Apply for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant: We are pleased to report that as of November 2022, a total of 519 students have been authorized to be awarded Oregon Tribal Student Grants for the 2022-23 academic year. HECC’s Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) is continuing to accept and review applications for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant for 2022-23 until funds are exhausted. The Oregon Tribal Student Grant is a new state financial aid program supported by the Oregon Legislature’s 2022 historic investment in equitable college access and success for tribal students. The grant is expected to pay for most or all public undergraduate college-related expenses—including tuition, housing, books, and other costs not covered by other grants—for eligible students who are enrolled members of Oregon’s nine federally recognized Tribes. Current and prospective students

can learn more and apply here. Students planning to attend college in the 2022-23 academic year are still encouraged to apply. We thank Government to Government tribal partners for the close consultation and partnership with launching the grant and supporting applicants. OSAC staff met with representatives from tribal governments as well as schools serving tribal students and provided webinar trainings and ongoing support to school partners.

New Oregon Student Aid Website: HECC's Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) is pleased to announce the launch of the newly designed Oregon Student Aid website at OregonStudentAid.gov, the state website where thousands of Oregonians go to apply for state-administered grants and scholarships to help afford their college goals, and to get help planning for college, training or careers. The new site features a mobile-friendly, accessible design aimed at current and future students, adult learners, and those who support them, including counselors and other career and college readiness practitioners, educators, families, and others. While the address is the same as the previous OSAC site, the new website name of Oregon Student Aid (OregonStudentAid.gov) gives audiences an easy-to-remember parallel with the FederalStudentAid.gov site that is the primary site for federal financial aid. The site features easy-to-navigate updated sections on financial aid applications, state grants, over 600 scholarships, ASPIRE mentoring program, outreach opportunities, and other college and career planning resources. Students can complete, submit, and follow up on applications. Students and those who support them can attend webinars on a variety of career and college readiness topics. Practitioners can access the partner portal, learn about workshops, order publications, and request presentations.

Continued administration of Oregon's state-funded financial aid and college affordability programs including: the Oregon Opportunity Grant, a need-based financial aid program that serves 30,000-40,000 students per year, the Oregon Promise, Oregon Chafee Education and Training Grant, Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance, and over 600 privately funded scholarships.

OSAC scholarship and grant applications Open for 2022-23 School Year: OSAC has officially opened its OSAC Scholarship Application for the 2022-2023 academic year. As of November 1, students can now apply for OSAC Scholarships, the Oregon Promise Grant, the Oregon Child Care Grant, and even more state grant programs. OSAC administers more than \$130 million in state-funded grants and privately-funded scholarships to help Oregon students meet their college expenses.

OSAC continues our outreach and presentations across the state: Go to OregonStudentAid.gov to **request support** from OSAC at an upcoming event, in a classroom, or providing training to your students/communities. **You can also sign up to receive our e-newsletters here.**

- **Webinars:** OSAC hosts a variety of webinars throughout the year for students, parents, and career/college practitioners. Our webinars are to provide up-to-date information about programs we serve.
- **Free Publications and Posters:** Order or download free posters and brochures. English and Spanish versions available.

Tribal Access to Oregon Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver: HECC-OSAC continues to be available to ensure Tribal foster youth have access to the Oregon Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver program, which waives tuition and fees for the equivalent of 4 years of undergraduate studies after other public grants and any school aid are applied. Learn more about eligibility at OregonStudentAid.gov .

Tribal partners continue to be invited to join the FAFSA Plus+ program. FAFSA Plus+ is a year-round program that includes FAFSA completion activities, events, and support, financial literacy information, scholarship resources, award letter help, and other college access information. OSAC continues to share student-

level FAFSA data and best practices with sites, allowing site staff to provide targeted assistance to their students who need to complete and submit a FAFSA, make corrections, and notify students who have been selected for verification. Since the expansion, HECC has entered into data-sharing agreements with the NAYA Early College Academy, the Southern Oregon Indian Education Program (SOIEP), and The Klamath Tribes.

Equity-based scholarship program for educators: HECC was able to continue support for educators supported through the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program in 2020. The Oregon Teacher Scholars Program (OTSP) is a HECC-operated scholarship for students pursuing an education degree who are ethnically diverse or a Heritage Speaker of a non-English language. The program provides students with career coaching, and awards scholarships to help students complete their degree with less debt. In 2021, the scholarship awards have been increased from up to \$5,000 per year to \$10,000 per year for individual recipients. Recipients can receive the OTSP for up to two years. In addition to a significant increase in award amounts per the 2021 law change, we are also expecting to make more awards to ethnically and linguistically diverse teacher candidates.

Partnering with high schools and partners statewide on pre-college mentoring and outreach programs to prepare students of all backgrounds for success in college and career, through Oregon ASPIRE, community outreach presentations and more.

EXPANDING DIVERSE LEARNER AND WORKER PATHWAYS

We continue our work to expand and streamline learner pathways to better serve the needs of diverse students today, including collaborative campus efforts to streamline the community college to university transfer pathway, working to improve affordability and time to degree for students, including low-income, first-generation, and underserved learner groups, and to support employment and workforce success.

Transfer Council Focused on Streamlining Transfer Pathways: The Transfer Council—convened in October 2021, and comprised of representatives from Oregon public universities, community colleges, and high schools—made considerable progress on implementation of the goals set forth by Senate Bill 233 (2021) to streamline the credit transfer process from two to four-year institutions to save students time and money. Since convening in October 2021, the Transfer Council and its subcommittees have focused on developing a common course numbering system, advancing the work on Major Transfer Maps, and other credit transfer-related issues. The Transfer Council is also moving forward the Oregon Transfer Compass Maps that started with HB 2998 (2017).

SB 234 Adults in Custody Workgroup: Pursuant to SB 234 (2021) HECC convened a group of stakeholders to conduct a study and develop recommendations on how to establish a coordinated, statewide approach to best serve Oregon adults currently in custody who will soon become eligible for federal Pell grants due to 2020 changes in federal law. The final report was completed and is available here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/highered/research/Documents/Reports/SB-234-Report-Final-2021.pdf>

Continued administration of First Generation Student Success grants: Thanks to continued funding approved by the Oregon Legislature, HECC continues to administer the First Generation Student Success grants funds supporting nine Oregon public community colleges and projects, programs and strategies that will increase the number of students who are underrepresented by race/ethnicity as defined in ORS 342.120, including low income, college-bound, and/or first-generation and who enroll in community colleges statewide and make progress toward a certificate or degree. Grant projects are serving Latinx, Native American, and African American students.

Future Ready Oregon Implementation: In spring 2022, the Oregon State Legislature passed Senate Bill 1545, providing a comprehensive \$200 million package of investments that work together to advance an equitable workforce system. The investments combine state and federal funding to support people with the education, training, and resources they need to get into good-paying jobs. The disruption created by the pandemic exposed significant disparities in how our workforce system serves Oregon's historically underserved and vulnerable communities, including adult learners, dislocated workers, and disconnected youth. These investments advance a diverse, skilled workforce that meets the needs of Oregon's employers today and into the future. The support a workforce system that is collaborative and customizes solutions to meet the unique needs of individuals, emphasizing recruitment, retention, and career advancement opportunities, while prioritizing historically underserved and vulnerable communities. Future Ready Oregon also prioritizes the workforce needs of key sectors of our economy such as healthcare, manufacturing, and technology and other in-demand industries and occupations that provide short-term pathways to employment, self-sufficient earning potential, and opportunities for economic mobility in communities across Oregon.

The following components of the Future Ready package are administered through the HECC, working with local workforce development boards, community-based and culturally-specific organizations, education & training providers, employers, and communities. The HECC is committed to engaging diverse partners to shape the process. [Learn more on our website here.](#)

"Prosperity 10,000" Grants to Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs): Grants to LWDBs who will distribute the funds to nonprofit community-based organizations, educational institutions, labor organizations and other workforce service providers.

Workforce Ready Grants: Competitive to non-profit and public workforce service providers and non-profit community-based organizations that administer workforce programs in the health care, manufacturing, and technology industry sectors.

Postsecondary Career Pathway Training Program Grants: Grants to community colleges for the development and support of postsecondary career pathway training programs that provide individuals from priority populations with opportunities and student supports to obtain the necessary skills for securing a job or career advancement in high-wage, high-demand industries and occupations.

Credit for Prior Learning Grants: Grants to community colleges and universities that work toward increasing opportunities for students from priority populations to receive academic credit for the knowledge and skills gained through work and life experience, through military training and experience and through formal and informal education and training.

Industry Consortia: Three separate, statewide industry consortia will be established to represent the health care, manufacturing and technology industry sectors.

In addition to components led by the HECC, opportunities are being administered through the Bureau of Labor and Industries Apprenticeship Grants Program as well as the Youth Development Division's Future Ready Youth Programs.

Continued administration of workforce programs as well as administration of adult basic skills statewide to train returning students, adults, dislocated workers, and all Oregonians with the skills they need for gainful employment. The HECC is the administrative entity for several federally funded workforce and

education programs, including those authorized by Title I and Title II of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Supporting dislocated workers, including those impacted by the pandemic: The HECC Office of Workforce Investments (OWI) continues its extensive work to mitigate challenges for workers and employers including those still being impacted by COVID-19 and the 2020 wildfires. The OWI works with the Oregon Employment Department, partner agencies, and community-based organizations to coordinate Rapid Response services supporting affected workers and businesses during reported layoffs. The OWI continues to support businesses and Oregon's nine Local Workforce Development Boards in their service.

Youth employment partnerships serving Tribes: Oregon Youth Works (OYW) administers funding and builds partnerships for workforce training, skill development and employment of youth and young adults. This is achieved through a variety of programs and service models to meet participant and community needs. Currently OYW is directly or indirectly partnering with seven of Oregon's nine federally recognized sovereign tribal nations, with increased engagement efforts to take place in 2023 and beyond to learn and develop additional opportunities. Through HECC's 2023-2025 Agency Request Budget, HECC has put forward Policy Option Package (POP) #301. A component of POP #301 is a request for \$2 Million dollars to specifically support an Oregon Youth Corps Tribal Corps. If successful, this funding will allow for partnering with and supporting tribal youth workforce development strategies. With additional funding and legislation passed in 2021 with SB 762 and HB 2092, the following OYW youth and young adult programs now include: Oregon Youth Corps (OYC), Oregon Conservation Corps (OCC), Oregon Youth Employment Program (OYEP), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth, and with the Oregon Department of Human Services Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Youth Employment Program. All OYW programs apply the HECC Equity Lens in awarding grants by identifying and supporting populations with greater vulnerability including communities of color, indigenous communities, communities with members who have limited proficiency in English and communities with lower-income members. These five programs are described below.

- **The new Oregon Conservation Corps (OCC):** The HECC has awarded roughly \$9 million in grant funding through SB 762's newly developed Oregon Conservation Corps. OCC is serving youth from the following Oregon federally recognized sovereign tribal nations: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, and Klamath Tribes. OCC partnerships focus on reaching youth from diverse cultural backgrounds, identities, and abilities and plan to serve upwards of 400 young adults in the 21-23 grant cycle. OCC partners operate through a crew-based model to reduce the risk wildfire poses to communities and critical infrastructure, help to create fire-adapted communities, and engage youth and young adults in workforce training. Tribal youth not only administer fuels mitigation, but they also participate in the delivery and care of their tribal elders through delivering wood and hardening homes from wildfire risk simultaneously learning cultural history and essential employability skills.
- **Oregon Youth Corps (OYC):** Oregon Youth Corps (OYC) opens opportunities for youth to gain first employability skills, connect with their community, learn about themselves, and grow interest in what comes next in life. OYC delivers grant funding and resources for youth workforce training providers through Service-Learning Education and On-the-Job Training awards. On-the-Job Training grants emphasize teaching and practicing workforce skill development as the primary benefit, while being provided paid stewardship work. Service-Learning Education grants also are modeled through stewardship focused work-based learning experiences but emphasize connecting participants with

education attainment gains. In 2022, OYC provided grant awards to Coquille Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation. In 2023, OYC will continue towards its goal of partnering with all nine federally recognized tribal communities, and with local programming in each of Oregon's 36 counties to advance youth workforce opportunities.

- **Oregon Youth Employment Program:** The HECC received \$9 million in 2021 to support the Oregon Youth Corps and implement the Oregon Youth Employment Program (OYEP). HB 2092 (2021) complemented the funding and modernized the program requirements. The purpose of the program is to provide equitable and inclusive opportunity and access to meaningful experiences for youth, to elevate collaborative impact within communities and their populations, and to develop youth and young adults (14-24) through skills training, work experience, career development and youth development. Statute requires the Oregon Youth Employment Program to ensure that at least 75 percent of program participants are from communities of color, rural communities, communities that have faced generational poverty or other communities that have been historically underrepresented in youth employment as identified by the commission by rule. Statute further dictates that no less than 20 percent of program funds are available to organizations with direct experience serving communities of color.
- **Department of Human Services (DHS) Youth Employment Program:** The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Youth Employment Program (YEP) is run year-round to create employment experiences for youth in the JOBS Program. The focus is on TANF eligible teen parents, non-parenting teens, young parents, and TANF related youth in the Child Welfare Independent Living Program and Vocational Rehabilitation Program between the ages of 16-24.
- **Oregon WIOA Youth Programs:** The Oregon WIOA Youth Programs continue to provide workforce development training opportunities to young people ages 14-24 through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA Youth programs serve both in-school and out-of-school youth through a variety of job opportunities such as summer and year-round employment opportunities, pre-apprenticeship programs, internships and job shadowing and on-the-job training. Additional opportunities include education offered concurrently with workforce preparation and training; leadership development opportunities; personal supportive services, labor market and employment information, and postsecondary education and training preparation activities.

College Credit while in High School – Accelerated Learning: Educational experiences that provide high school students with the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school are known in Oregon as “accelerated learning” programs. The HECC works with educators across the state to ensure that students may access quality accelerated learning programs while in high school. Students participating in accelerated learning are usually starting on a pathway to a college degree or certificate. These programs aim to provide bridges that support and encourage college and career preparation. They can smooth the transition into a college or university by enabling high school students to successfully earn college credit and participate in programming to orient and motivate them for postsecondary degrees and certificates. The HECC coordinates closely with the Oregon Department of Education, Community Colleges, and Public Universities to implement the state’s equity lens through the state standards for college credit in high school.

Adult Basic Skills annual conference: In Oregon, adult education and high school equivalency education are crucial to communities statewide, and the HECC is pleased to support the educators and partners who do this

critical work. In October 2022 HECC convened its annual Oregon Adult Basic Skills conference, focused on effective strategies, techniques, latest trends, and best practices in the field of adult basic skills and high school equivalency education.

Statewide administration of Oregon's High School Equivalency Program, including GED® test preparation, instruction, testing processing in Oregon, and hosting a national conference for educators. In 2022, HECC continued to administer state funding invested by the Legislature to defray the cost of GED® testing and/or provide support in the form of wraparound services to minimize barriers to earning a GED® test credential that many GED® test candidates face. Wraparound services include trained staff, professional development, testing fees, transportation costs, food, childcare, curriculum, and technology.

AmeriCorps Program Recruitment: Oregon Volunteers' AmeriCorps programs are actively recruiting for the next cohort of members eager to meet community's pressing needs and earn an education award for college – now state-tax free in Oregon! Positions are still open in education, conservation, health programs and more. Partners are invited to raise awareness about AmeriCorps opportunities with the new What's at your core? marketing campaign.

Continued approval of new academic programs at the public colleges and universities.

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