

Did you know...?

Fifty-one percent of all jobs in 2012 were middle-skill.

Between 2012-2022, 49 percent of job openings will be middle-skill.

Middle-skill jobs account for 51 percent of Oregon's labor market, but only 47 percent of the state's workers are trained to the middle-skill level.

(Source: National Skills Coalition, Middle-Skill Jobs State by State: Oregon

<http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/publications/file/middle-skill-fact-sheets-2014/NSC-Oregon-MiddleSkillFS-2014.pdf>)

HECC recommends to governor a 60 per cent increase in state financial aid

Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) weighed budget requests from across higher education – community colleges, universities and student financial aid – to recommend to the governor which should be the highest priorities. The HECC decided that \$66 million should be put into the hands of students in the form of need-based scholarships.

If the HECC's plan were enacted, every recent high school graduate entering a public university or community college starting in fall 2016 could count on enough financial aid to bridge the gap between what they and their family can afford and the roughly \$20,000-a-year cost of tuition, fees, room and board.

Read Betsy Hammond's complete *Oregonian* article here:

http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2014/08/vastly_expand_state_financial.html#incart_related_stories

Save the date:



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Oregon's First Annual GED Summit 2014
Building Capacity for Student Success: GED and Beyond

October 24, 2014, 9 am to 5 pm, Sheraton at the Portland Airport

All state and local organizations working with the GED community are invited to attend, learn, share and network with local, state and national partners.

Workshops will support GED Test Administrators, GED Preparation and Instruction, GED Option Programs and Homeless Youth, GED Corrections and Accommodations areas of interest.

Online registration coming soon.

Registration fee: \$40.00 early bird (Register by September 30)
 \$50.00 (After September 30) Limited scholarships available.

Please refer questions to: Linda Hutchins at linda.hutchins@state.or.us




Online registration coming soon!

PCC issued No. 5 most 2-year degrees among U.S. community colleges

Portland Community College awarded 4,200 associate degrees in 2012-13, [the fifth most of any community college in the country, according to the national trade publication](#) Community College Week.

That represented a mammoth 30 percent increase in degrees issued by PCC in a single year. During 2011-12, the multi-campus community college that is Oregon's largest higher education institution issued about 3,740 degrees and ranked No. 11 among two-year colleges nationally.

The huge increase allowed PCC to leapfrog community colleges in El Paso, Tampa and Salt Lake that used to out produce it.

Read Betsy Hammond's complete *Oregonian* article here:

http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2014/08/portland_community_college_iss.html#incart_related_stories

CLASP report: Workforce Results Matter

At a time of sustained unemployment and sluggish job growth, students and policymakers are increasingly asking tough questions about postsecondary education and training outcomes. Do graduates find jobs? What are they paid? What will they earn in the future? Despite growing national interest in this information, good answers are not widely available for many programs.

Read the complete *Center for Postsecondary and Economic Success* report here: <http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/files/2014-04-29-CLASP-Workforce-Results-Paper.pdf>

Workforce training is on the White House radar

Seventy-two percent of executives whose companies are facing skills shortages identified training as one of the top ways for employees to develop new skills, yet 35 percent admit they have not invested enough in training, according to a 2013 Accenture survey. Recognizing this trend, the federal government enacted the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), aimed at bringing the American workforce fully into the 21st century. President Obama signed this call to action to demonstrate that we aren't addressing the lack of training that is costing the economy \$1.3 trillion.

While federally mandated training programs are a step in the right direction, the private sector must start dedicating resources to training all employees, creating job opportunities, and ensuring a competitive workforce for proper training to become ubiquitous.

Read the complete *Congress Blog* article here: <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/labor/214964-trainings-on-the-white-house-radar-it-should-be-on-yours>

Free GED® classroom guide to writing constructed responses

Constructed response items make up 15-20% of your student's score on the RLA, Social Studies, and Science test subjects. Be sure students know how to write responses that will earn them points and boost their score, even if they only get partial credit.

Download the [Tools for Drafting a Constructed Response classroom worksheet](#) today to walk your students through these steps.

2014 GED® program updates

The new [2014 GED® Program: A Guide for Admissions Officers](#) is now available. This guide explains how college admissions officers can evaluate GED® test graduates and explains how to use the Smart Transcript.

A new reason to question the official unemployment rate

[A new academic paper](#) suggests that the unemployment rate appears to have become less accurate over the last two decades, in part because of this rise in nonresponse. In particular, there seems to have been an increase in the number of people who once would have qualified as officially unemployed and today are considered out of the labor force, neither working nor looking for work.

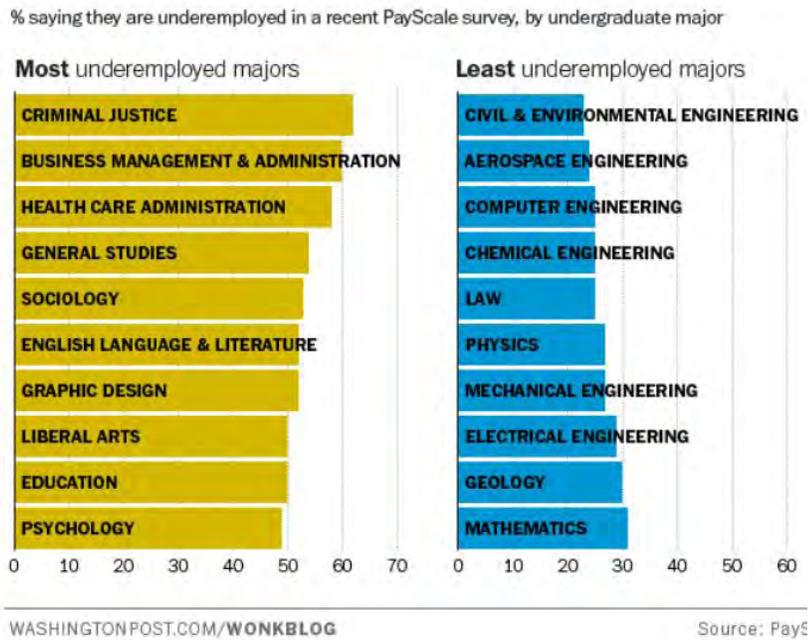
The Labor Department's monthly jobs report tries to estimate employment in a big country – and to do so quickly, to give policy makers, business executives and everyone else a sense of how the economy is performing. It's a tough task.

And it has become tougher, because Americans are less willing to respond to surveys than they used to be.

Read the complete *New York Times* article here:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/26/upshot/a-new-reason-to-question-the-official-unemployment-rate.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&version=HpSum&module=second-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&r=1&abt=0002&abg=1>

The college majors most and least likely to lead to underemployment



Read *The Washington Post* article here: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/08/26/the-college-majors-most-and-least-likely-to-lead-to-underemployment/?hpid=z8>

CWRC/NCRC E-Newsletter

The CWRC/NCRC E-Newsletter is designed to provide stakeholders with a condensed summary of the most current information, events, and data related to Certified Work Ready Communities (CWRC) the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) efforts across the state.

Read the current edition here: <http://us8.campaign-archive2.com/?u=0264f1038c8c96d67fafa92b5&id=d11e12b257&e=ce0d0831bd>

Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and Subcommittee Meetings

<http://education.oregon.gov/Pages/HECC-Meeting-Materials.aspx>

Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) and Subcommittee Meetings

<http://education.oregon.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Oregon Workforce Investment Board (OWIB) Meeting Dates

http://www.oregon.gov/gov/skilled_workforce/Pages/Vision%20and%20Strategic%20Plan.aspx

HECC-OWIB Joint Task Force Meetings

http://www.oregon.gov/gov/skilled_workforce/Pages/HECC-OWIB-Joint-Task-Force.aspx

The Mission of the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development is to contribute leadership and resources to increase the skills, knowledge and career opportunities of Oregonians.

<http://www.oregon.gov/CCWD/> 503-947-2401
