

From: [CANNON Ben](#)
To: Ben Cannon; Betty Duvall; Carmen Rubio; David Rives; DICKINSON Kelly; Duncan Wyse; Enrique Farrera; Frank Goulard; Jenn Lawson; Larry Roper; Lee Ayers; McMorris, Claire Marie; Neil Bryant; Ramon Ramirez; Sandra de Jesus (asst. to Carmen Rubio); Terry Cross
Cc: HECC Leadership
Subject: Legislative Days update from September
Date: Thursday, October 20, 2016 3:32:11 PM

Commissioners,

At our meeting last week, I promised to provide a written report on the HECC-related activities during the September, 2016 interim “legislative days.”

Briefly:

- On September 14, the Interim House and Senate Revenue committees received a report on revenue projections for the remainder of the 2015-17 biennium and beyond. The report included little in the way of news: revenue projections for the remainder of the biennium are almost unchanged, and there was only a very modest downward adjustment (\$68 million) to the outlook for 2017-19. Overall Oregon’s economy continues to surge, although state economists noted some warning signs of potential slowdown across the nation.
- At the September 21 meeting of the Interim House Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development Committee, I was joined by HECC staff Teresa Wolfe and Betsy Simpkins to present on the agency’s work-to-date to administer the Open Educational Resources (OER) grant program that the Legislature adopted via HB 2871 (2015). In a nutshell, we have awarded over \$300,000 to 10 community colleges and universities to develop OERs for 13 common, introductory courses. We are providing technical assistance, collaborative opportunities, and are working to secure a permanent home for these materials when they’re completed. Our presentation, along with other materials from the committee meeting, is available [here](#).
- At the same Interim House Higher Education Committee meeting, I provided an update on our implementation of the Oregon Promise. I noted that we had 10,459 valid applicants for Fall 2016, and I described how the funding is likely to play out for the year. We remain reasonably confident that the \$10 million appropriation will be sufficient for 2016-17, although I reminded the committee that the cost of continuing the program for the 2017-19 biennium is likely to be around \$40 million. My presentation is also available [here](#).
- I was asked by Sen. Betsy Johnson to testify briefly to the Joint Emergency Board Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee on our efforts to support the “orphaned” ITT students. A report on that effort, including my testimony, was included in an online health care publication, the [Lund Report](#). The same subcommittee also approved the submission of applications from the HECC’s Office of Workforce for \$4.2 million in federal grants related to apprenticeship and dislocated workers (for details, see [here](#)).
- I joined Andrew Rogers, our Director for Public University Budget and Finance, to present to the Capitol Construction Budget Process Task Force on September 23. We were part of a series of panels that presented information related to public university capital budgets. We described the recent history of state investment in university capital construction, the process and criteria the Commission uses to make its recommendations, and we previewed the list that we have recently recommended to the Governor for funding in 2017-19. We noted the interest that the Governor and the Commission have expressed in developing a more forward-looking, proactive approach to prioritizing state investments in higher education capital. Our presentation, along with others made by public university representatives, is available [here](#), and may be worth reviewing before our special meeting on November 4th.
- Finally, I met individually with Rep. Johnson, Sen. Hass, Rep. Smith-Warner, Rep. Evans, and Rep. Nathanson, on a variety of topics.