

Background on CCWD

1957: The legislature enacts the first legislation providing for the formation of community college districts. It provides the first direct state funding to community colleges. Prior to this, adult education programs were operated out of the high schools. Administration of the community colleges at the state level was through the Department of Education and the State Board of Education.

1962: Community Colleges in Oregon were created by local communities beginning in the early 1960s. OCCA was formed in 1962 by SWOCC, COCC, TVCC, and BMCC to represent the newly formed colleges.

1987: Oregon adopts legislation supported by OCCA to create a state office for community colleges and a community college commissioner, separate from the Department of Education.

1993: The legislature made the commissioner position a permanent statutory office.

1999: Oregon adopts legislation supported by OCCA to make the Office of Community College Services into the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD). This change marked the final step in establishing a full-fledged state agency for community colleges.

2013: The Legislature passes HB 3120 which redefines the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and moves the community colleges from the State Board of Education to HECC effective July 1, 2014. Local governance of community colleges is strengthened by removing statutes granting general supervisory authority to the state and by explicitly stating that HECC only has authority granted to it by the legislature and that all other authority resides at the institutional board level.

2014: The Legislature passes HB 4018, which establishes CCWD as a department within the HECC and creates a task force to make recommendations on the transition.