



Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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Agency Update:

December, 2015 | The work of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission's (HECC) is focused on four key functions described in the 2014-15 HECC Strategic Plan: 1) broaden the pathways to our 40/40/20 goals, 2) make the pathways accessible, affordable and supportive for students, 3) steer the higher education enterprise, and 4) cheer the promotion of college completion and career readiness. The HECC is currently developing an updated (2016-20) Strategic Plan, a statutory responsibility of the Commission, and a truly exciting opportunity to forge a deliberate path toward our collective postsecondary education goals. We invite and encourage tribal community input and feedback on the development of the 2016-20 Strategic Plan. Please consider reviewing the current outline for the plan, and sharing input in the survey below. Feel free to share this invitation for input with others in your community.

- [Higher Education Coordinating Commission Strategic Planning web page](#)
 - [Current Draft Outline to Strategic Plan](#)
 - [Public Input Survey](#)

Commissioner appointments: At its October meeting, the Commission elected Neil Bryant as Chair, and David Rives as Vice-Chair of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission ([see press release here](#)). Chair Bryant is an attorney and shareholder in the firm of Bryant, Lovlien, and Jarvis, in Bend, and a former Oregon State Senator; and vice chair David Rives is a community college faculty member and president of American Federation of Teachers (AFT)-Oregon. We are also pleased to report that on November 18, the Oregon Senate confirmed the appointment of Terry Cross as a new member of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and reconfirmed the appointment of Betty

Our Commission

The Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is dedicated to fostering and sustaining the best, most rewarding pathways to opportunity and success for all Oregonians through an accessible, affordable and coordinated network for educational achievement beyond a high school diploma. Oregon's higher education and workforce system serves hundreds of thousands of learners through seven public universities, 17 public community colleges, private and independent colleges and universities, workforce programs, and private career and trade schools., who oversees the work of the HECC agency.

Established in 2011, HECC is a 14-member volunteer commission responsible for advising the Oregon Legislature, the Governor, and the Chief Education Office on higher education policy. The Commission is supported by an executive director who oversees the HECC agency. For more information, see About Us on the HECC website.

Future Funding Opportunities

The **OSAC Scholarship application** period has begun, as has the **application for the Oregon Promise program**.

Students and families should go to **OregonStudentAid.gov** and **www.OregonPromise.org**

Upcoming Events

December 3, 2015: Funding and Achievement Subcommittee, Portland

December 9, 2015, Student Success and Institutional Collaboration Subcommittee, Salem

December 10, 2015, Full Higher Education Coordinating Commission Meeting, Portland

January-February 2016: College Goal Oregon events across the state, more information to be announced. *For email notices of upcoming public HECC meetings, or sign up for our newsletter, go to www.oregon.gov/HigherEd*

Duvall, who has long served on the Commission. Mr. Cross is founding executive director—now serving as senior advisor—of the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), a policy and advocacy organization for Indian children and their families. He is an author and national expert on child welfare issues, and served on the faculty of Portland State University School of Social Work for fifteen years.

Umpqua Community College Tragedy: Following the tragic events at Umpqua Community College (UCC) on October 1, Oregon’s higher education community—faculty, students, and administrators from around the state—have come together to support UCC and the Roseburg area. Compassionate leadership and partnership has come from Governor Brown and her staff, the Oregon Community College Association, Oregon’s community colleges and universities, the Ford Family Foundation, and many, many others. The HECC has joined in those efforts, with a particular focus on supporting the college’s efforts to re-establish normal operations and to build a feeling of safety and security on campus. We have also been working to help the college address some of the financial consequences associated with the events. The HECC recently finalized a \$145,000 emergency strategic grant that will provide short-term coverage for some of UCC’s initial recovery expenses. At its meeting October 8th, our Commission committed to ensuring that state funding allocations for the current fiscal year don’t penalize UCC for any enrollment decline that is the direct result of the events. Governor Kate Brown recently convened presidents of postsecondary institutions to discuss campus safety and security. And we are working with UCC and the Governor’s office to prepare possible emergency funding packages for consideration by the 2016 Legislature.

Recent Legislatively-directed HECC activities: As noted in our last update, the 2015-2017 budget adopted by the Legislature and signed by Governor Kate Brown represented the largest single-biennium increase in state funding for Oregon’s public colleges and universities in at least two decades. The HECC recently published a final [2015 Legislative Summary report, available on our website here](#), which summarizes the legislatively-adopted postsecondary education budget and key policy bills related to higher education in the 2015 session, and our staff have been busy implementing numerous work groups and other assignments resulting from legislative decisions. At the Commission’s November meetings, commissioners heard updates and discussed progress on the work related to the following legislative bills. These updates are summarized in [archived materials here](#).

- Senate Bill 81: One major area of work lately for the HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) has been the launch of the new Oregon Promise program for Oregon, created through SB81. The Oregon Promise program is a new state program that gives the high school Class of 2016 and qualified GED® recipients the opportunity for full or partial tuition grants to attend community college; the application period opened on November 1 and we are encouraging students statewide to apply. OSAC has introduced the program to Oregon students, launched an application process and procedures, and is working on administrative rules for this program.
- Senate Bill 418: A work group has been meeting on this bill, which focuses on identifying ways to improve college readiness with an emphasis on accelerated learning and retention and success of students who receive the Oregon Promise. Recommendations will be brought to the HECC in January 2016.
- House Bill 2871: This bill focuses on making open education resources (think free textbooks) more widely available. This will be accomplished by implementing an OER grant program, and promoting on Oregon campuses the use of free and accessible teaching, learning and research resources that can be legally adapted and redistributed for students’ use at low or no cost.
- House Bill 2525: This bill strengthens the Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and develops research to better understand and address student loss of credit upon transfer.
- House Bill 2681: This bill is related to placement testing and policies at the community colleges. HECC staff members are collaborating with others to leverage previous work related to developmental education, and will bring a report to commissioners in December and January.
- House Bill 3335: As directed by this bill, HECC staff members are researching approaches to the problem of university students stopping out after the equivalent of two years and the possibility of receiving a “General Education Credential”.
- House Bill 3375: This bill is focused on Educator Equity; HECC will require Oregon’s 6 public university teacher preparation programs to prepare written plans that address the recruitment, selection, retention, and graduation of diverse educators. The HECC will further consider recommendations on this bill in 2016.
- House Bill 2973: This bill is focused on researching “affordable bachelor’s degrees.” HECC staff are researching models for these degrees, surveying current programs, and gauging interest, and will report in February 2016.

Accessible, affordable and supportive pathways

Application period opens for Oregon Promise program, HECC publicizes info to students and families: OSAC began accepting applications for the Oregon Promise on Nov. 1, 2015, and has already received thousands of applicants. The Oregon Promise provides grants for new high school graduates and eligible GED® recipients who will begin community college classes in the Fall 2016. OSAC has released to schools and communities statewide a new toolkit of informational materials for on the Oregon Promise, to help Oregonians understand the program and how to apply. The materials include an introductory video, FAQ, infographic, and more in English and Spanish., and are available at www.OregonPromise.org. Additionally, if partners wish to include notice about the Oregon Promise in an e-newsletter or on a website, please feel free to contact OSAC at

info@OregonPromise.org and they will provide the content for a short (approximately 150-word) article for distribution. To be eligible for the Oregon Promise, students must: receive an Oregon high school diploma or GED® in Spring/Summer 2016; have been an Oregon resident for at least 12 months prior to community college enrollment; enroll in community college within 6 months of completing high school or GED®; have a cumulative high school GPA of 2.5 or better; and accept all state and federal grants awarded.

OSAC application period opens for over 500 scholarships: Each year, OSAC awards nearly \$70 million in grants and scholarships to Oregon students at all stages of their post-secondary career – from first-year through graduate school, at community colleges, universities, specialty schools. Now through March 1 is the time to apply for these programs – Visit OregonStudentAid.gov to begin the application process. As of Nov: 24h, 8301 applications have been started with 360 completed and submitted. Last year at this same time 5,277 had been started, with 127 completed and submitted.

ASPIRE: Tillamook Bay Community College held the very first College and Career Readiness Training, organized and facilitated by a new cross-sector statewide collaboration. The College and Career Readiness Collaboration is a new multi-agency action group working to mobilize counselors, building administrators, and youth advisors to accelerate Oregon's progress toward two of our state's most ambitious goals--100% high school graduation and 80% postsecondary completion by 2025. To learn more, contact Lori Ellis, ASPIRE and Outreach Administrator, Lorianne.m.ellis@state.or.us

OSAC initiative to expand FAFSA completion featured at White House convening: Oregon's recent success in expanding the number of students applying for financial aid for college has received national attention. Leaders from the OSAC were among a select group invited to participate in a special convening to support First Lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher Initiative on October 21, 2015, where they presented the exciting results of OSAC's FAFSA Plus+ outreach program. The FAFSA Plus+ program is a pilot initiative launched in spring 2014, which resulted in a 5 percent increase in Oregon high school students across the state completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). At 42 statewide locations from Portland to Umatilla to Rockaway Beach, FAFSA Plus+ high schools have worked in partnership with OSAC to boost the number of Oregon high school seniors who complete the FAFSA. We are very proud of Oregon's results, and of our colleagues for being honored for this great work! If you wish to learn more about the program's results or the White House trip, see our [press release here](#), and the [guest blog in our newsletter here written by Lori Ellis and Kristin Vreeland](#).

Oregon Opportunity Grant: Effective for 2016-17, the awarding priority for Opportunity Grants will change from awarding on a first-come, first-served basis to awarding based on financial need. To be considered for an Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG), students must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The 2016-17 FAFSA will be available online starting January 1, 2016. Students can link to the FAFSA website from OSAC's website (www.OregonStudentAid.gov), or they can go directly to www.fafsa.ed.gov. All students (and parents of dependent students) will need an FSA ID, which serves as their electronic signature on the FAFSA. Those who do not yet have an FSA ID don't have to wait; they can go to the website (<https://fsaid.ed.gov>) anytime and create their FSA ID so they are ready to go in January.

Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA): To be considered for an Oregon Opportunity Grant or the Oregon Promise Grant, a student must complete the FAFSA. For students who are not eligible for federal student aid programs, OSAC has developed the ORSAA – an alternative need analysis process for determining a student's financial need. Both the 2016-17 FAFSA and the 2016-17 ORSAA will become available in early January 2016. Responses to a short set of filtering questions will link students to the correct form – the FAFSA or the ORSAA. Students will be able to link the filtering questions from the Oregon Promise application and the Oregon Opportunity Grant webpage.

Promotion of college completion and career readiness

Student Success and Completion Model in place for Public Universities: Starting in 2015-16, the allocation of state funding to the seven Oregon public universities is determined using the Student Success and Completion Model (SSCM), developed and approved by the HECC. This model shifts the method for allocation from an enrollment-based model to a model focused on access and completion, as well as other state priorities. We now have [materials on our website](#) that provide summary information about the SSCM and its context.

Broadening the pathways to our 40/40/20 goals

Recent Events: The HECC Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development in collaboration with the Chief Education Office held the second annual [GED Summit: Creating Promising, Designing Success](#) on November 19-20 at Sheraton at the Airport, in Portland. GED partners statewide convened on topics related to preparation and instruction, accommodations, corrections, best practices, transitions, and persistence. The HECC also sponsored a summit related to credit for prior learning on November 13. [The American Council on Education \(ACE\): Dispelling the Mystery of the Academic Review Process and Transcript Services](#) event brought together partners from Oregon postsecondary institutions for professional development in this area.

New Programs Approved: At the October and November Commission meetings, the HECC has approved the following new certificate and degree programs at Oregon's public universities and community colleges: University of Oregon--PhD Prevention Science, MS Prevention Science, MEd Prevention Science, Master of Science (MS) in Historic Preservation Program (existing program), approved to be offered at UO Portland location; Portland State University--BA/BS, Applied Health and Fitness, BS, Quantitative

Economics; Southwestern Oregon Community College--AAS, Human Services, AAS Degree in Baking Management, AAS Degree in Culinary Management; Rogue Community College--AAS Degree in Family Support Services.

Other Updates:

Enrollment and Completion Data: The HECC compiles the Fall 4th Week enrollment data for both the community colleges and universities, which is now available on our website under Featured Reports. The total combined 4th week enrollment across all seven universities is nearly the same as the previous year, showing a.1 percent increase, while the combined 4th week enrollment at the 17 community colleges shows a -6.41 percent decrease. The HECC is in the process of finalizing reports on certificate and degree completion at our Oregon campuses as well.

HECC executive director Ben Cannon was pleased to present at the Legislative Commission on Indian Services Tribal Governments Panel in late August and participate in the October Tribal Leaders Meet & Greet which included a discussion of the 2015 AI/AN Education State Plan.

Communications Resources:

HECC News Clips service: The HECC has started a regular email including a selection of news clips primarily related to Oregon postsecondary education. If you wish to sign up for this email, [subscribe to news clips here](#).

For more on current work of the HECC, please see recent meeting materials, or go to oregon.gov/HigherEd.