

HECC 2015 G2G Annual Report



November, 2015

Ben Cannon, Executive Director

HECC MISSION

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The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) has adopted as its mission the achievement of the state's statutory target of having 40 percent of adult Oregonians with a four-year degree or better and another 40 percent with a two-year degree or postsecondary certificate by the year 2025.

HECC GOALS

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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.

ABOUT US

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HECC is a 14-member volunteer commission responsible for advising the Oregon Legislature, the Governor, and the Chief Education Office on higher education policy. Its statutory authorities include:

- development of biennial budget recommendations for public postsecondary education in Oregon
- development of funding allocations to Oregon's public community colleges and public universities
- approving new academic programs for public institutions
- allocating Oregon Opportunity Grants (state need-based student aid)

ABOUT US (CONTINUED)

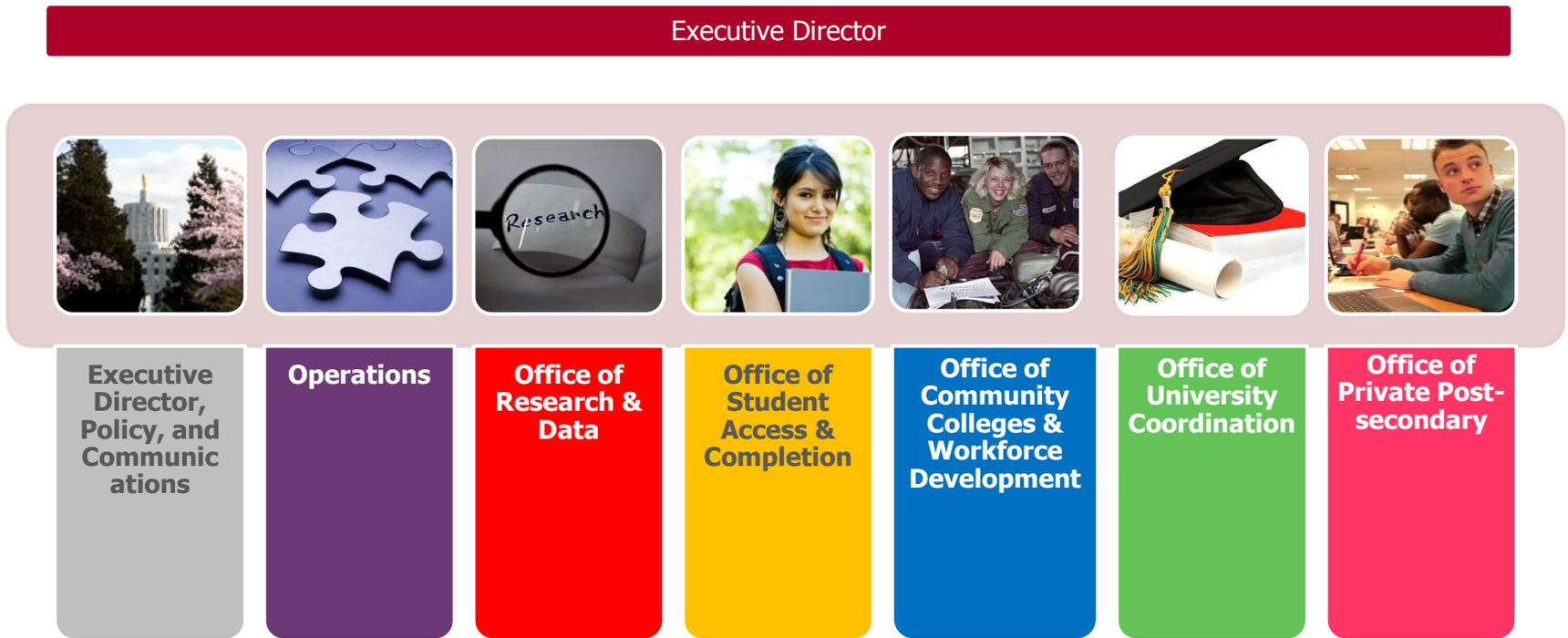
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- authorizing degrees that are proposed by private and out-of-state (distance) providers, licensing private career and trade schools, overseeing programs for veterans implementing other legislative directives.

The Commission is supported by an executive director, who oversees the work of the HECC agency, the seven offices (see next slide), all of which support the statutory responsibilities of the Commission.

HECC AGENCY ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The HECC agency is responsible for carrying out the directives, initiatives, and statutory requirements of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.



HECC 2014 G2G REPORT – STRATEGIC PLAN

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- The HECC's Strategic Plan is an update of its action plan toward the State's visionary 40-40-20 goals, focused on four key functions 1) to broaden the pathways to the 40-40-20 goals, 2) to make the pathways accessible, affordable and supportive for students, 3) to steer the higher education enterprise, and 4) to cheer the promotion of college completion and career readiness. The HECC engages in ongoing collaboration with the nine federally-recognized tribes in order to accomplish the agency mission.

RECENT ACTIVITIES: HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION AND POLICY

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HECC 2015 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY: Key Postsecondary Education Budget and Policy Bills



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHT UPDATES

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- A significant amount of this past year's activities was directed toward higher education legislative, budget and funding level priorities for postsecondary education in Oregon, which included the largest single-biennium increase in state funding for higher education in two decades.

LEGISLATIVE BILL HIGHLIGHTS

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- SB 81: establishes the Oregon Promise program, a grant program supporting community college affordability.
- SB 418: workgroup focused on improving college readiness with an emphasis on accelerated learning and retention and success of students who receive the Oregon Promise.
- SB 932: addresses eligibility for financial aid through the Oregon Opportunity Grant for students who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents.
- HB 2871: open education resources (think free textbooks).
- HB 2525: strengthens the Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

LEGISLATIVE BILL HIGHLIGHTS

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- HB 2016: directs the HECC to participate in an advisory group charged with developing and implementing a statewide education plan for African-American students.
- HB 2407: redesigns the Oregon Opportunity Grant to awards grants to the highest need students first, with a focus on improving student access and completion.
- HB 2681: related to placement testing and policies at the community colleges.
- HB 2645: establishes a priority system for qualified veteran students at universities and community colleges that currently have an established priority enrollment system.

LEGISLATIVE BILL HIGHLIGHTS

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- HB 2847: directs the Oregon ASPIRE program to include financial aid instruction.
- HB 3308: workgroup addressing disparities among traditionally marginalized, underserved and underrepresented communities through continuing education recommendations.
- HB 3335: HECC staff researching approaches to university students stopping out after equivalent of two years and the possibility of receiving a “General Education Credential”.
- HB 3375: addressing Educator Equity through recruitment, selection, retention, and graduation of diverse educators.
- HB 2973: researching “affordable bachelor’s degrees”.

For our comprehensive summary of 2015-2017 postsecondary education budget and policy, bills, see the HECC 2015 Legislative Summary available on our website www.Oregon.gov/highered under Legislative Resources.

AFFORDABILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY UPDATES

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- Affordability and Productivity updates:
 - Launch of the new Oregon Promise program; information available for students and families at OregonPromise.org
 - Redesign and expansion of the Oregon Opportunity Grant (need-based financial aid) targeting the grant to Oregon's high-need, high-promise students who are on track to succeed academically but struggling with college costs OregonStudentAid.gov
 - Outreach and affordability initiatives such as OSAC's FAFSA Completion Pilot Project (FAFSA Plus+), Textbook Affordability, and ASPIRE expansion.
 - Development of the new Student Success and Completion model for the seven public universities, focusing on greater focus for access and successful completion of degrees for resident students. The model includes extra attention to the needs of historically underserved college students.

EXPANDING PATHWAYS TO INCREASED EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

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- Updates on Broadening Pathways toward 40-40-20
 - Colleges and universities usage of Smarter Balanced scores.
 - Distance Education updates via the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA).
 - Noncredit Training Certificates approval.
 - General Education Credential (GED) updates.
 - Continuing efforts regarding Credit for Prior Learning.
 - Oregon ASPIRE and FAFSA outreach expansion.

PARTICIPATION

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- The HECC provides leadership presence at quarterly G2G meetings and coordinates activities with the Governor's Office, the Chief Education Office and other education partners. The agency receives notification of training and informational sessions from the Legislative Commission on Indian Services and promotes opportunities for staff participation. At the September G2G, we were pleased to affirm the intent of Oregon public universities to continue their commitments regarding residence classification of members of Oregon tribes and the demonstrated proficiency in an American Indian language to meet all or part of the second language requirement as certified by the governing body of any federally recognized tribe.

PARTICIPATION

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- Agency staff participated in Tribal Information Days, the February Oregon Indian Coalition on Postsecondary Education, and attend and support community-based functions. Additionally, the Executive Director presented at the August Legislative Commission on Indian Services convening and participated in the October Tribal Leaders Meet & Greet, which included a discussion of the 2015 AI/AN Education State Plan.

HECC CONTACT INFORMATION

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