

LAUNCHING OREGON'S NEW HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING AGENCY

- ✓ Launched a new state agency with **116 employees**, responsible for administering Oregon's **\$2.4 billion postsecondary education and training budget**.
- ✓ Successfully **absorbed responsibilities held at five boards and four agencies*** before state restructuring.
- ✓ **Ensured continuity of critical state functions after restructuring** of public university governance (2013-2015), including funding, data collection, and more.
- ✓ Adopted and implemented **two Strategic Plans to achieve the state's goals for postsecondary education** (2014-15 and 2016-2021).
- ✓ Adopted and implemented an **Equity Lens** for education.

REPORTING

CONVENING, REPORTING, RESEARCH

- ✓ Convened at least **127 public meetings**, including Commission meetings, work groups, committees, and task forces.
- ✓ Prepared and adopted **42 policy and informational reports for the Legislature** in response to requests and legislation.
- ✓ **Combined data and reporting for public two- and four-year institutions** into a single state office.

- ✓ Led in the adoption of new Key Performance Metrics that emphasize **equity and student completion**.
- ✓ Annually conducted rigorous **evaluations of public universities**.
- ✓ **Convened diverse groups of partners** on topics including equity and cultural competency, Open Educational Resources, and pre-college mentoring.
- ✓ Hosted and/or sponsored at least **nine large professional development conferences** convening hundreds of partners on education and career success-related topics.

FUNDING

FUNDING STUDENT SUCCESS

- ✓ In 2015, presented **the state's first-ever comprehensive, integrated postsecondary budget request** linked to state goals, including for financial aid, programs & initiatives, operating funds, and capital.
- ✓ **Overhauled the 20-year-old formula for allocating state funding to Oregon's public universities**, shifting to a model that focuses on student completion and includes incentives for underrepresented students.
- ✓ Awarded **millions of dollars of strategic grants** for targeted initiatives to improve student success.

- » Oregon's national ranking for higher education funding per student has **improved from 47th to 37th** since 2015.
- » The 2015-17 budget represented the **largest single biennial reinvestment** in Oregon's public colleges and universities in at least two decades.

Featured Outcomes

PATHWAYS

STREAMLINING AND FOSTERING LEARNER PATHWAYS

- ✓ Helped shape groundbreaking legislation that directs public institutions to **develop seamless transfer pathways** for students from community college to public university.
- ✓ Approved over **100 new Academic Programs** at Oregon's public institutions.
- ✓ Authorized and **licensed hundreds of private career schools and degree-granting institutions**, ensuring they meet state standards.
- ✓ Adopted standards that expand options for students to **earn college credits while in high school**.
- ✓ **Forged a path for nursing students to complete degrees** at Portland Community College after the sudden closure of ITT Technical College in 2016.
- ✓ Facilitated the launch of the **new, more rigorous 2014 GED test** across 70 test sites and 17 community colleges.
- ✓ Supported **employment or training of over 4,000 young Oregonians** through Oregon Youth Conservation Corps and federal youth workforce programs in 2015-17.

AFFORDABILITY & OUTREACH

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY TO AFFORDABLE POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS

- ✓ Led efforts to secure a **28% increase in funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG)**, Oregon's longstanding need-based aid program that now serves more than 40,000 students each year.
- ✓ In 2015, **led a redesign of the OOG program to ensure that grants go to the highest-need students first**.

Featured Outcomes

- » 53.6% of young Oregonians aged 25-34 held at least an Associate degree or undergraduate certificate in 2016, **up from 50.6% in 2014**.
- » Over the last decade, Oregon's public universities have **steadily increased graduation rates** for first-time freshmen.
- » Oregon ranked **#1 nationally for the increase** in total number of high school seniors who completed the FAFSA in Fall, 2016.
- » Oregon became the second state in the nation after Tennessee to launch a Promise program. Early findings on the Oregon Promise show **increases in community college enrollment straight from high school**, and more federal Pell Grant dollars to community college students.
- ✓ Conducted research and recommendations that helped shape the new Oregon Promise grant program. **Marketed, launched, and administered the Oregon Promise** for over 6,800 students starting in 2016, just one year after the program's creation by the Legislature.
- ✓ Launched FAFSA Plus+, partnering with 221 high school and sites to support **increased completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, contributing to the nation's highest increase in 2016.
- ✓ **Led research on textbook affordability that informed state investments** in Open Educational Resources (OERs), and awarded \$323,000 in state-funded OER grants in 2015-17.
- ✓ At the Legislature's direction, **launched the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA), an alternative to FAFSA for undocumented students** who are ineligible for federal financial aid.
- ✓ **Through ASPIRE, coordinated more than 1,500 volunteers at 157 schools** and sites in providing college and career youth mentorship in 2015-16.
- ✓ Conducted **over 240 college and outreach events** in rural and urban communities in 2015-17.

**State agency boards with higher education roles in 2011: OEIB, HECC, SBHE, SBE, OSAC. In 2017: HECC.*

Last updated on 12-7-17. For more information including sources for information represented here, contact us at info.HECC@state.or.us.