

Docket Item:

Adopt state adult attainment goal.

Summary:

The Adult Attainment Workgroup, convened by the HECC and the Workforce and Talent Development Board (WTDB), recommends to the HECC the following statewide adult attainment goal:

“By 2030, 300,000 adult Oregonians will earn a new credential of value with enough credentials earned by racial/ethnic minority, low-income, and rural Oregonians to reduce attainment gaps by half.”

The recommendation is the culmination of a nearly year-long workgroup process that began following the passage of House Bill 2311 (2017), which directed the HECC and the Workforce and Talent Development Board (WTDB) to establish a statewide educational attainment goal for adult Oregonians.

At its final meeting on September 17, 2018, the Workgroup reviewed data and agreed on a timeline and targets for the goal. The Workgroup decided that the date by which the goal is to be achieved should be roughly 10 years in the future, and that the year 2030 was optimal. However, the group also emphasized the need for regular progress reports, and a substantive evaluation of progress at the 5-year mark.

The Workgroup also reviewed data on current adult postsecondary completion rates broken out by race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, and rural/urban status, employment projections from the Oregon Employment Department, and analysis of completions needed to meet workforce needs and/or reduce attainment gaps. After this review, the workgroup determined that approximately 310,500 additional credentials of value attained by adult Oregonians will be needed to meet workforce demand.

Approximately 19,000 certificates and degrees are produced by Oregon postsecondary institutions annually, necessitating an increase to an average of 30,000 per year. For the sake of clarity and communications, the Workgroup agreed that the target should be 300,000. Finally, the workgroup agreed that this increase in attainment should be accomplished in way that reduces attainment gaps for racial/ethnic minority, low-income, and rural adult Oregonians by half.

Since the workgroup’s final meeting, the HECC’s Office of Research and Data, in collaboration with the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development and Office of Workforce Investments, has been developing the metrics that will be used to track progress toward this goal, including the numbers of racial/ethnic minority, low-income, and rural Oregonians that must earn a new credential of value in order to reduce attainment gaps by half.

Docket Material:

Attachment: Adult Attainment Data Slides

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends adoption of the statewide adult attainment goal: “By 2030, 300,000 adult Oregonians will earn a new credential of value with enough credentials earned by racial/ethnic minority, low-income, and rural Oregonians to reduce attainment gaps by half.”