

**Docket Item:**

National Career Readiness Certificate Program Legislative Report

**Summary:**

The National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) may be awarded to individuals who demonstrate foundational workplace skills via a standardized test developed by ACT. It is intended to be a valuable, portable indicator of a person's workforce readiness.

ORS 660.343 requires the HECC annually to report to the Legislature and Governor data and recommendations related to the NCRC program. This report provides 1) the number of students enrolled in Oregon community colleges who utilized the services provided by the program during the 2018-2019 academic year, and 2) recommendations for improving the program.

There are three notable aspects of this year's report:

- 1) ACT has updated the assessments used in the NCRC. The transition to a new assessment and testing platform was successful. Test proctors statewide received training to update their skills, and we have seen an increase in percentage of examinees earning a Platinum certificate.
- 2) Several counties are making a focused effort to become certified work ready (CWR). By partnering with local leaders in education, workforce, and economic development, five counties have meeting at least 90% of the required goals to become a CWR Community. It is probable that all five will certify in 2020.
- 3) By partnering with the STEP program, participants use the NCRC to identify their strengths and areas for improvement related to work-ready skills. The program has been successful in helping Oregonians who have been persistently unemployed find and keep meaningful work.

**Docket Materials:**

NCRC 2019 report

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the Commission approve the report for submission to the Legislative Assembly.