

FEATURED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION (HECC) SINCE ITS FORMATION:

Established in 2013 as part of the State of Oregon's restructure of higher education governance, HECC assumed responsibilities held previously by five different boards and four state agencies. HECC now functions as a coordinating commission and agency with a comprehensive, integrated approach to all sectors of postsecondary education, responsible for setting state policy and funding strategies, administering programs and investments of over \$1.5 billion annually, and coordinating partners to achieve state goals.



OUTREACH

Added new resources to help students, families and counselors access financial aid opportunities, including webinars, bilingual materials and more, and conducted at least **300 college and career outreach events** in rural and urban communities since July 2017.

Through ASPIRE, coordinated over 1,700 volunteer mentors at over 150 schools and sites, providing college and career mentorship in 2017-18.

Increased participation in the FAFSA Plus+ program from 228 to 257 high school and sites statewide, supporting data sharing and services fostering increased completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Expanded bilingual informational materials for DACA and undocumented students on college access, including on the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA), an alternative to the FAFSA.



LEARNER PATHWAYS

With public institutions, developed and **finalized Core Transfer Maps, expanding tools to improve transfer student pathways** from community colleges to public universities.

Led a **peer review process for accelerated learning**, maximizing opportunities for high school students to receive high-quality, transferable college credit.

Embarked on strategies supported by a **Lumina Foundation grant to increase postsecondary completion for underrepresented students of color, focusing on adults**.

Authorized or renewed **hundreds of private career schools, degree-granting colleges, and distance education programs** to meet state licensing and authorization standards.

Updated private career school cosmetology curriculum standards to reflect the industry knowledge required today.

Forged the path for 133 nursing students to complete degrees at PCC in 2018, following the sudden closure of ITT Technical College in 2016.

Supported employment or training of over 3,100 youth through Oregon Youth Conservation Corps and federal youth workforce programs in 2017-18.

With state partners, **supported more than 109,000 training and career services for Oregonians**—from job search support at WorkSource Oregon Centers to financial literacy, English language learning, and more, in 2017.

Provided **technical assistance and professional development to GED® and adult education-providers statewide**.

Approved 80 new academic programs in emerging or high-interest fields at Oregon's public community colleges and universities.

FEATURED OUTCOMES

Oregon is making progress toward 40-40-20.

Since 2014, the percentage of Oregonians age 25-64 with a postsecondary credential increased from 50.8 to 53.5, slightly faster than national rates.

Postsecondary education fosters economic mobility.

For Oregonians from low-income families who enroll in college as young adults, 18% become high-income earners by their mid-30s, compared to 4% of those who do not enter college as young adults.

Completion rates are rising at both community colleges and public universities.

At public universities, the percentage of first-time, full-time freshmen who earn a bachelor's degree within six years rose from 59.6% to 64.6% in the last decade. At community colleges, the percentage of students new to college (full-time and part-time) who earn a career certificate, associate degree, or transfer to any four-year institution nationwide within four years rose from 44.2% to 48.3% since 2011.

FEATURED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



FUNDING FOR SUCCESS

Developed and presented to the Legislature **Oregon's comprehensive, integrated postsecondary education and workforce budget request** linked to state goals.

Launched the **development of a 10-year capital investment plan** for the public universities.

Continued implementing the HECC-developed **outcomes-based formula for allocating state funding to public universities**, incentivizing investments in student success and under-represented students.

After extensive multi-year process, **concluded that SOU and EOU met established conditions for fiscal stability** and program alignment.

Awarded millions of dollars of grants for targeted initiatives to improve learner success, including wrap-around grants to high school equivalency organizations, grants to adult education and literacy services providers, and more.

Increased Oregon Opportunity Grant awards, transforming awarding policy from lower flat award amounts, to higher differential amounts, covering a higher share of college costs.

Continued to **administer and track results of the Oregon Promise**, as the second state to launch a Promise program.

Launched the **Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance Grant**.

With foundation and community partners, **added 28 new private scholarships** to the state's administration of private scholarships, bringing the total to over 600.

Launched the **Oregon Opportunity Grant Tax Credit Auction**.



REPORTING TO STEER PROGRESS

Finalized a new Strategic Framework 2017-2021 as an update to the HECC Strategic Plan. Grounded by the Equity Lens, the Framework identified four strategic action areas that have guided recent agency and commission work.

Introduced 2017 legislation that **clarified Oregon's 40-40-20 educational attainment goal to focus on youth**.

Established a **new statewide goal to increase adult postsecondary attainment** and meet the needs of projected job growth.

Created and launched the **first annual set of "Statewide Snapshots"** in 2018, reporting on key enrollment, affordability, and outcomes data, focused on equity.

Redesigned HECC Key Performance Metrics with more strategic focus and ways to measure progress by race/ethnicity, and developed a related **dashboard of state progress** toward higher education and workforce goals.

Conducted rigorous **evaluations of public universities**.

Prepared and submitted **at least 30 policy and informational reports for the Oregon Legislature** in response to requests and legislation, on topics including: Oregon Promise, Apprenticeship Pathways, 529 College Savings Accounts, and more.

In partnership with the Workforce and Talent Development Board, **produced the Oregon Talent Assessment**, an analysis of industry talent needs.

Partnered with external researchers such as the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce on special reports that inform state higher education efforts.



CONVENING AND PARTNERSHIP

Convened at least 110 public meetings of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission or its affiliated advisory boards.

Led special work groups, task forces, and forums on a wide array of public policy topics, including transfer pathways, mental health in higher education, a petition for a community college service district boundary change, and more.

Broadened the agency's public mission with the **transfer of two new public boards** to HECC administration: Oregon Volunteers and STEM Investment Council.

Hosted or sponsored ten professional development summits or conferences, including the Talent Summit, Reach Higher Summit, GED® Summit, and more, convening hundreds of partners on education and career pathways, workforce/industry needs, and related topics.

HECC staff **presented their expertise to national audiences** at numerous high-visibility conferences and events hosted by the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), *The Atlantic*, Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE), and many others.

FEATURED OUTCOMES

Public investment in Oregon higher education has increased, while challenges remain.

In the past five years (FY2013-FY2018), the State of Oregon has increased public funding for higher education by 47.1%, more than any other state in the country (15.2% nationally). However, Oregon remains well below the national average for per-student funding, ranking 38th among the states.