

November 6, 2020

TO: Ben Cannon, Executive Director
Higher Education Coordinating Commission
FR: David McDonald, Associate Vice President for Public Affairs and Strategic
Initiatives

Over the past year and half the SSCM workgroup has met to update the SSCM which was implemented in 2015. This workgroup has operated in a highly collaborative and collegial manner and despite our differing perspectives we continued to be focused on doing what was best for Oregon and Oregon students.

The SSCM is a leading national model that is built on the pillars of equity, degree production, and accountability. The efforts of the workgroup was led by Jim Pinkard who was able to exhibit both great patience and strong persistence. Other members of the HECC staff were also invaluable in our efforts to make data-driven and objective recommendations.

WOU is proud to be part of a state used an equity lens to create its outcome-funding model. This lens has fostered an educational environment that has further increased our shared commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. As Oregon's only public university to be designated as an emerging Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), WOU has fully embraced the statewide goals in this critical area.

The workgroup made a number of recommendations around refining the model and correcting some unintended operational components of the model. The biggest aspect of work where we did not reach full completion was Mission Differentiation. The workgroup agreed that the smaller size of the TRU universities, and our service to Oregon's rural communities were worthy of recognition within the model. Where we could not reach conclusion was how much to fund the Mission Differentiation. For smaller universities such as WOU this funding is critical since the proportion of our overall budget that comes from the state is significantly greater than what the larger campuses receive.

The continued refinement and updating of the SSCM is evidence of the wisdom of the HECC to implement a funding model that is so strongly driven by degree production of Oregon residents. We look forward to working with the HECC Commissioners and staff to advocate for more funding for the PUSF so that Oregon's public universities can help address Oregon's immediate economic and social needs while also building a stronger Oregon for the next decades.

