

Docket Item

Equity Update- DEI Council Report

Summary

The HECC began convening an Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) in 2017. The purpose of this group is to collaborate with institutional equity partners on legislative work, to network, and to address problems of practice. Members of the group are designated by presidents of each Oregon public college and university; typically the designee is the institution's chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) officer. Of Oregon's seven public universities, six have a formal position and office for DEI. Western Oregon University is currently in the process of hiring their first VP of DEI at their executive level. Of the 17 Community Colleges, only 8 have a dedicated position and office to support the equity work. When the new HECC Director of DEI role was created in 2019, this position assumed responsibility for facilitating and coordinating this group. Recently, the group has grown to include some DEI officers from the K12 system.

In the November 2021 Commission meeting, the new HECC Equity Lens was presented. In the discussion that followed, commissioners expressed interest in learning more about how Oregon public institutions are operationalizing DEI, and suggested that members of the EAC present on their work, particularly as it relates to the HECC's Strategic Roadmap. Today's panel includes five EAC members who represent different education sectors and regions.

The Roadmap sets five categories for strategic action as major areas of focus for the HECC, the Legislature, and other partners. The panel will share about work underway at their institutions, including barriers and successes, related to the Roadmap categories:

- Transform and innovate to serve students and learners best
- Center higher education and workforce training capacity on current and future state needs
- Ensure that postsecondary learners can afford to meet their basic need
- Create and support a continuum of pathways from education and training to career
- Increase public investment to meet Oregon's postsecondary goals

Materials

None

Staff Recommendation

For discussion and informational purposes only.