

Docket Item:

Final report and presentation: National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) study of Oregon’s higher education landscape

Background and Summary:

In 2021, Governor Kate Brown encouraged Oregon’s public colleges and universities to undertake a comprehensive study, conducted by nationally recognized experts, to utilize evidence and knowledge of emerging patterns to make recommendations for increased financial stability and collaboration among institutions to strengthen the entire ecosystem of higher education in Oregon.

In January, 2022 the Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) and Oregon Council of Presidents (OCOP) contracted with NCHEMS to undertake a study to inform Oregon’s statewide vision for higher education and increase partners’ understanding of what is needed to effectively serve current and future students and the state and its various regions.

Between March and September, 2022, NCHEMS staff acquired and analyzed student and workforce data and undertook site visits to public universities and community colleges. They met with HECC and institutional leadership, faculty and staff, students, leaders from community-based organizations, and stakeholders representing regional employers and economic and workforce development partners. On October 27, OCOP and OCCA jointly released the final NCHEMS “Oregon Higher Education Landscape Study.”

The final report includes findings and recommendations that are directly relevant to institutional as well as state leaders, including the HECC.

Today, the Commission will receive a briefing on the study from Oregon Institute of Technology President Nagi Naganathan and Clackamas Community College President Tim Cook.

Staff Recommendation:

For information and discussion only. No action is required at this time.