THE HECC envisions a future in which all Oregonians—and especially those whom our systems have underserved and marginalized—benefit from the transformational power of high-quality post-secondary education and training...

–Vision Statement, 2017 Strategic Framework

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.

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 Student 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 underrepresented 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 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.

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.

HECC Convening and Partnership

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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.