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PRESS RELEASE

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HECC Receives National Grant to Improve Career Technical Education Data Quality to Better Serve Postsecondary Education Students

Salem, OR – The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is pleased to report that that [Oregon was selected by Advance CTE as one of five grantees](#) to participate in a cohort focused on improving postsecondary Career Technical Education (CTE) data quality. Quality data is a critical component for informed decision making about CTE programming and discerning the needs of underrepresented populations in postsecondary CTE.

Oregon, in addition to Alabama, Delaware, the District of Columbia and Florida, were chosen through a competitive application process to participate in an initiative [announced in June 2020](#) and funded by ECMC Foundation. The [Advancing Postsecondary CTE Data Quality Initiative](#) aims to enhance equity, access and program quality for postsecondary CTE learners by building state capacity to improve postsecondary data systems, collection and sharing.

“Quality data is critical for states to develop relevant, equitable, and effective CTE programs that meet the unique and dynamic needs of postsecondary learners”, said Kimberly Green, Executive Director, Advance CTE. “The five grantees represent a snapshot of the diverse challenges facing data quality, and we are excited about the potential of this cohort to foster innovation and develop foundational systems for quality data that can be scaled nationally in the years to come.”

As part of the cohort, the HECC will receive a planning and implementation grant, technical assistance and a peer support network from Advance CTE. The HECC will serve as Oregon’s designated agency to design and implement a two-year data quality action plan. The agency plans to focus the work on closing equity gaps by improving data collection and analysis. Specifically, Oregon participants plan to identify specific postsecondary CTE pathways and program quality indicators most likely to result in positive outcomes, and use that data to help increase access for underrepresented populations.

“We’re delighted for the opportunity to join other states in this innovative collaborative initiative to improve the data systems that help us steer and improve CTE initiatives and investments. Quality CTE data is important in order to

help us understand what CTE strategies work best and for whom, so that ultimately we can scale up the most promising student success strategies, better serve adult learners seeking short term credentials, and improve equitable CTE educational opportunity for Oregon’s most underserved and underrepresented communities,” said Ben Cannon, executive director of HECC.

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The State of Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission (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 postsecondary education and training. For more information, go to www.Oregon.gov/HigherEd