



Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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February Agency Update:

February 2018 | Our partners can find former quarterly Government to Government updates as well as other information on work and initiatives in [Coordination with Oregon Tribes](#) section of our website.

Recent HECC Work: We are pleased to report that HECC approved—and is already starting to implement—a [Strategic Framework 2017-2021](#) that will guide its strategic action in the coming years. The HECC is required by statute (ORS 350.075(d)) to adopt a strategic plan for state postsecondary goals. When the HECC adopted its current 2016-20 Strategic Plan, Commissioners agreed to regular updates to ensure it is a living document. The Strategic Framework is a short public-friendly document that draws from the [2016-20 Strategic Plan](#), concisely describing the Commission's updated vision, mission, values and beliefs, and defining four key areas of activity that can be used by the Commission to prioritize existing and future strategic initiatives.

1. **REPORTING** to steer progress: Through advanced data analysis, evaluation, and reporting, HECC will build public and institutional commitment to meeting achievement goals and closing equity gaps.
2. **FUNDING** for success: HECC will develop an approach to state funding higher education and workforce that is directly linked to student success.
3. **Streamlining Learner PATHWAYS:** HECC will promote clear onramps to education and training, reduce barriers for transfer students, and link graduates with careers.
4. **Expanding Opportunity through OUTREACH:** HECC will develop a comprehensive outreach plan to ensure all Oregonians have access to affordable, relevant options for postsecondary training

These four Strategic Areas of Activity are aimed to achieve the Commission's Strategic Goals for STUDENT SUCCESS, EQUITY, AFFORDABILITY, and ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACT (drawn from the 2016-20 Strategic Plan), and success will be measured against these goals. The [Framework](#) has been in development and public discussion since August 2017, and reflects input received over the course of numerous public meetings, as well as institutional and community partners stakeholder meetings, and invitations to the public. All input was deeply valued, and we thank all who provided their comments on this important planning document.

Our Commission

OUR VISION:

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. [Learn more about our vision and Strategic Plan here.](#)

The HECC is the single state entity responsible for ensuring pathways to higher education success for Oregonians statewide, and serves as a convener of institutions and partners working across the public and private higher education arena. Established in 2011, HECC is a 14-member volunteer commission responsible for advising the Oregon Legislature, the Governor, and the Chief Education Office on higher education policy. The Commission is supported by an executive director who oversees eight offices of the agency. To learn more about the HECC go to:

www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Pages/hecc.aspx

Events

HECC Commission Funding and Achievement Subcommittee Meeting:

March 15, 2018

HECC Commission Funding and Achievement Subcommittee Meeting:

April 11, 2018

Higher Education Coordinating Commission Meeting:

April 12, 2018

For email notices of upcoming public Commission meetings, or to sign up for our newsletter, go to www.oregon.gov/HigherEd

Invitations to Tribal Chairs: Equity, diversity and inclusion are prominent themes and guiding priorities for the HECC, and we are committed to fostering our connections and collaborations between HECC and the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon. Veronica Dujon, Director of Academic Strategies for the HECC Office of University Coordination and Dr. Carmen Suarez, Vice President, Global Diversity and Inclusion at Portland State University, and a member of the HECC Equity Advisory Council, extended an invitation to Tribal Chairs in December, 2017 to meet with each tribe in coming months. Our intent is to engage in ongoing conversations with each Tribe to understand how we at the HECC, and in higher education, can be better partners in serving the interests of Tribes and Native American students in Oregon.

New Data Resources Will Emphasize Equity with Disaggregated Data on Key Higher Ed Measures: At its February meeting, Amy Cox, director of research and data for the HECC, updated the Commission on Higher Education Progress Indicators, as well as the development of Statewide Higher Education Snapshots, a new set of reports that is soon to be released. The Higher Education Progress Indicators presentation includes longitudinal data, including data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, on key higher education measures related to college entry, affordability, retention, completion, and mobility. The Higher Education Statewide Snapshots are expected to be released in early March. They will provide annual state, institutional, and regional summaries of higher education in Oregon with emphases on enrollment, affordability, completion, and equity. HECC staff will be working to more broadly share the data in these documents to help build momentum and partnership in reaching state goals.

Legislative Updates:

January Legislative Days: During January Legislative Days, agency staff updated legislative members regarding several ongoing activities and program through informational presentations related to: private career school statutes and administrative rules, private for-profit institutions in Oregon, and progress on House Bill 2998 to improve transfer pathways. HECC continues to act as a resource to legislators during the 2018 session presenting on higher education topics as requested. HECC staff has tracked and analyzed numerous bills related to higher education and workforce in this session. A few bills of note:

Senate Bill 1528 proposes a tax credit auction, which would result in increased financial aid funding for Oregonians. It proposes that the state sell \$14 million annually in state tax credits and utilize the proceeds to fund additional Oregon Opportunity Grants or to increase the maximum award amount.

House Bill 4053 proposes new data collection in the area of accelerated learning credit. This data collection would take a broad sampling of students from across the state to determine how these credits are being transcribed by receiving institutions, with an interest in how accelerated learning credits are aligned with the foundational curriculum course structure developed in House Bill 2998 (2017) transfer work that continues.

House Bill 4141 looks to ensure a greater degree of student participation in tuition setting processes on public university campuses as universities contemplate tuition rates. Campuses would be required to: formalize more student involvement; consider several factors in their tuition setting processes; and, in the event universities request a tuition and fee increase that requires the HECC's approval (greater than five percent), provide information about how they have considered those factors to the Commission.

Affordability and Financial Aid:

Financial Aid Applications: The HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) encourages Oregon students statewide to apply for privately funded scholarships at OregonStudentAid.gov by the deadline of March 1, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. In addition to the scholarship application, students should complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) or the [Oregon Student Aid Application](#) (ORSAA) to be considered for federal and/or state financial aid, including grants and loans. OSAC uses data from the FAFSA or the ORSAA to determine students' eligibility for the Oregon Promise, the Oregon Opportunity Grant, and numerous scholarships. Information from the FAFSA is also used to determine eligibility for federal aid, including the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Direct Loans, and Federal Work-Study. For additional information about deadlines and eligibility for the Oregon Promise and the Oregon Opportunity Grant, see our website at OregonStudentAid.gov.

Oregon Opportunity Grant: HECC disbursed Oregon Opportunity Grant funds to 39,262 students in fall 2017, totaling more than \$26.8M dollars as of January, 2018. The Oregon Opportunity Grant is Oregon's long-standing need-based financial aid programs, supporting low-income students in affording eligible public and private Oregon colleges and universities across the state. These preliminary grant totals are slightly lower than in fall 2016, when HECC disbursed funds to 41,766 students. Funding levels and eligibility parameters (e.g., expected family contribution limits) vary somewhat year-to-year. Due to limited state funding, Oregon has long been without a sufficient budget to award all eligible applicants, but the program is critical in supporting college affordability for tens of thousands of Oregonians every year.

Oregon Promise: HECC also disbursed 9,320 Oregon Promise grants in fall 2017, totaling \$5.7M as of January, 2018. The Oregon Promise is a relatively new program for the State of Oregon, providing grants to support tuition at Oregon community colleges for recent high school graduates and GED recipients. The HECC first launched the Oregon Promise in 2016-17, and 6,899 students received the Oregon Promise grant in its fall term, 2016. With the continuation of this program through the state's 2017-2019 investment, HECC extended grants to eligible awardees from the first cohort and added grants to the second cohort of students first entering in 2017. To operate within

funding levels, HECC implemented limitations on eligibility for new applicants, using criteria related to a student's expected family contribution (EFC). Additional updates on the Oregon Promise were provided in [a presentation](#) at the February Commission meeting.

OSAC webinars and financial aid outreach: OSAC offers presentations (including in person upon request), webinars, and resources for schools, tribal partners, counselors, nonprofits, students, parents, and other partners on how to plan for and afford postsecondary education. For details see the [Community & Outreach Services page of their website here](#), which includes times and topics for upcoming webinars, options for ordering publications, and a process for requesting presenters or downloading OSAC's Finding Funds for College presentation. OSAC presented information on financial aid opportunities at 60 outreach events in fall, 2017, as well as via numerous webinars.

FAFSA Plus +: OSAC continues to [invite applicants for FAFSA Plus+](#), and at its January Commission meeting, HECC heard an update on the accomplishments of this program. FAFSA Plus+ is a year-round program that includes Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion support, FAFSA completion events, and other college access resources. OSAC shares student-level federal FAFSA data with sites, allowing site staff to provide targeted assistance to high school seniors and their families. Over the last 4 years, FAFSA Plus+ has expanded from a pilot with 4 sites, to 234* sites as of November 2017. School districts, high schools, TRIO programs, Tribal Education Agencies, Indian Organizations, or community-based organizations are invited to complete the non-competitive [FAFSA Plus+ Application](#).

Supporting Pathways and Student Success:

At its December 2017 and January 2018 meetings, the Commission approved the following programs at Oregon's public community colleges and universities.

Community Colleges: Portland Community College AAS, Electric Power Generation ; Chemeketa Community College [AAS, Diesel Technology AAS](#); Mt. Hood Community College, [AAS, Automotive Technology Subaru AAS](#); Treasure Valley Community College, [AAS, Equine Business](#)
Public Universities: Oregon State University: Master of Adapted Physical Education (MAPE, [summary, write-up](#)); Western Oregon University: BA/BS in Sustainability, [summary, write-up](#), BA/BS/BFA in Arts and Design, [summary, write-up](#).

Transfer Workgroup Continues Momentum for House Bill 2998 Implementation: Oregon passed groundbreaking legislation in 2017 to improve transfer pathways, and the HECC continues to convene a Transfer Workgroup to advance this work. House Bill 2998 (2017) is intended to create clear and comprehensive pathways for community college students in Oregon as they transfer to Oregon's public universities, by directing Oregon public institutions to establish foundational curricula of at least 30 credits and major-specific unified statewide transfer agreements (USTAs). Learn more:

- [House Bill 2998 web page on the HECC Website here](#)
- [Sign up to receive updates on Transfer Pathways by email](#)

In January, the HECC submitted a [Report to the Oregon Legislature on House Bill 2998 implementation to date](#). Since the legislation's passage, the HECC and the Transfer Workgroup have developed: two proposed foundational curricula; definitions of "lost academic credit" for the purposes of this report and for future use; criteria for deciding the order by which USTAs will be established; and the first four major disciplines for which USTAs will be established. Work on the major-specific USTAs will begin in April.

Economic and Community Impact

On February 5, 2018 Governor Brown launched [Future Ready Oregon \(see press release here\)](#) which includes a number of initiatives intended to provide skill and job training to Oregonians to close the gap between the skills of Oregon workers and the needs of Oregon businesses. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission's [Office of Workforce Investments \(OWI\)](#) and the [Oregon Workforce and Talent Development Board \(WTDB\)](#) play key roles in supporting the realization of the Governor's vision in this area. We will report more on this in future updates.

Other Updates:

HECC News Clips service: The HECC provides a regular email service including a selection of news clips primarily related to Oregon postsecondary education. If you wish to sign up for this email, please [subscribe to news clips here](#).

For more on current work of the HECC, please see recent meeting materials, or go to oregon.gov/HigherEd.