



# Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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## May Agency Update:

May 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:** The HECC continues to implement—a [Strategic Framework 2017-2021](#) that will guide its strategic action in the coming years. 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 2) FUNDING for student success, 3) streamlining learner PATHWAYS, and 4) expanding opportunity through OUTREACH. 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, and success will be measured against these goals. At each Commission meeting, the executive director presents to the Commission a [Strategic Initiatives Tracker \(May, 2018 version here here\)](#) that describes recent progress in each of the four priority areas.

**Budget Development Underway for 2019-21:** At its April Commission meeting, HECC commissioners began to discuss budget development for postsecondary education for the 2019-21. biennium. The postsecondary education budget includes state funding for: Oregon's 17 community colleges, Oregon's seven public universities and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), state financial aid and student access programs, Oregon's workforce investment boards, capital investments in Oregon's public institutions, and HECC agency operations. The HECC works in close collaboration with Oregon's public institutions and state partners to develop the Agency Request Budget (ARB) and submit it by September 1, 2018, a first step in the biennial budget process.

**Input Sought on Development of Financial Aid Proposal:** HECC staff are beginning discussions with stakeholders on a possible proposal for a grant program to support Native American students, which will be presented for the Commission's consideration among budget recommendations for 2019-21. Currently, Native American students are least likely to enroll, persist, and graduate from public colleges and universities in Oregon. The grant would target Native American High School graduates and GED recipients who are recent graduates within the last 2-3 years. Eligibility parameters are under discussion.

## 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](http://www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Pages/hecc.aspx)

## Events

### HECC Commission Funding and Achievement Subcommittee Meeting:

June 13, 2019

### Higher Education Coordinating Commission Meeting:

June 14, 2018

*For email notices of upcoming public Commission meetings, or to sign up for our newsletter, go to [www.oregon.gov/HigherEd](http://www.oregon.gov/HigherEd)*

[Input Sought on OSAC Outreach](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OSACOutreachsurvey2018): The HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) is currently in the process of evaluating and improving its outreach efforts. This includes the work facilitated by partner organizations and individuals throughout the state. Your input will be useful for OSAC to gain a better understanding of its current strengths and areas for improvement, in order to better serve students. Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete our short survey.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OSACOutreachsurvey2018>

[New Data “Snapshots” Make Key Higher Education Data Easily Accessible](#): On April 16, HECC released the first annual [full set of Statewide Higher Education Snapshots, available by clicking on the locations of interest on the Oregon map here](#). Using simple graphics, this new accessible data resource answers frequently asked questions on three subjects of high interest in higher education today—enrollment, affordability, and outcomes, with a focus on students of color and first-generation students among all Oregon residents. [Read the full press release with featured findings here](#). The set of reports includes statewide Snapshots showing a high-level picture of results at all Oregon public institutions combined, all 17 community colleges, and all seven public universities, as well as 24 individual Snapshots for each of Oregon’s public institutions.

[Commission Unanimously Votes that EOU and SOU Meet State-set Conditions for Fiscal stability and Program Alignment](#): The HECC announced in May that Eastern Oregon University (EOU) and Southern Oregon University (SOU) have met the conditions for fiscal and performance stability tied to the approval of their institutional boards in 2014 ([see press release here](#)). With the Commission’s report of this decision to the Governor and state leaders, three years of reporting, analysis, and monitoring came to a conclusion after the universities demonstrated to the Commission the fiscal stability and clarity of mission required for future success.

[Oregon Talent Summit focuses on preparing for the future of work in Oregon](#): Hundreds of business, education, workforce, public policy, community, and talent development leaders convened at an Oregon Talent Summit on May 11 to address the talent needs of Oregon businesses, and how to best prepare Oregonians for the quickly evolving 21st century workforce. New research presented at the event, including Oregon workforce trends and preliminary findings of Oregon’s talent assessment study, are available at the [Oregon Talent Summit website here](#). See our [press release here for featured findings](#). The event was designed to help inform several state efforts: the [Governor’s Future Ready Oregon initiative](#), the development of new educational attainment goals for adult Oregonians, and work to renew the Oregon Talent Development Plan.

#### **Legislative Updates:**

The HECC is pleased to release the [2018 Legislative Summary, Key Postsecondary Education Budget and Policy Bills](#), providing an overview of key legislative outcomes in Oregon’s 2018 Legislative Session pertaining to higher education and workforce. Key themes in 2018 session were efforts to improve postsecondary affordability through financial aid, foster student transitions between education sectors, and improve career pathways and economic development. A few noteworthy bills passed in 2018 support:

- Better data and reporting on college credit earned in high school (House Bill 4053), to inform state efforts to provide a uniform well-coordinate system statewide to advance accelerated learning, and reduce cost and time to complete a college credential.
- A new ongoing funding source to increase need-based financial aid for low-middle income students through the Oregon Opportunity Grants beginning in 2019-20 (Senate Bill 1528).
- Tuition assistance for Oregon National Guard members in 2018-19 (House Bill 4035), and dedicated ongoing funding of scholarships for children of deceased public safety officers (House Bill 4056).
- Formalization of student involvement in tuition setting processes at public universities (House Bill 4141).
- Ensuring continuation of current state policy on tuition equity (the ability to pay in-state tuition) for eligible undocumented students (Senate Bill 1563).
- Improving targeted career and economic development opportunities including apprenticeship opportunities for veterans (House Bill 4098) and jobs and employment in the construction industry in rural areas (House Bill 4144).

#### **Affordability and Financial Aid:**

[Upcoming OSAC Financial Aid Deadlines](#): [Student Child Care Grant Deadline](#) is May 31 and the [Oregon Promise Grant Deadline](#) is June 1! Remember to also encourage all current college students and high school seniors to complete the [FAFSA or ORSAA](#).

[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. [Participation at OIEA Annual Conference](#): OSAC staff presented opportunities on grants and scholarship opportunities at the [Oregon Indian Education Association \(OIEA\) Annual Conference](#) this year, and numerous HECC representatives attended.

Adjustments Expand Reach for Oregon Promise and Oregon Opportunity Grant for 2018-19: The HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) announced in April that the state's largest financial aid programs will expand their reach for 2018-19. Thanks to the state's 2017-19 investments and recent assessments of projected need, OSAC has adjusted the awards for the Oregon Opportunity Grant and the Oregon Promise for 2018-19 to maximize the support these programs provide to students across the state in affording their postsecondary goals. For the OOG, the maximum awards in 2018-19 will increase from \$2,250 across the board to \$2,600 for community college students and \$3,200 for 4-year college and university students. For the Oregon Promise, OSAC adjusted the eligibility to expand the program to more students, removing a limitation that was put in place in 2017-18, due to budgetary constraints. For 2017-18, the HECC had to limit Oregon Promise Grant eligibility to students based on their Expected Family Contribution (EFC), an income related measure. For the upcoming academic year 2018-19, the HECC is able to remove this temporary EFC limit and fund all eligible recipients as was originally designed in the 2015 legislation that established the program. Read more in the [press release here](#) or on at [oregonstudentaid.gov](http://oregonstudentaid.gov).

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:**

Academic Program Approvals: At its April and May 2018 meetings, the Commission approved the following academic programs at Oregon's public community colleges and universities: Chemeketa Community College, A.A.S. Anesthesia Technology; Mt. Hood Community College, Certificate of Completion in Computer Game and Mobile Applications Programmer Certificate; Klamath Community College, A.A.S. Aviation – Airplane and A.A.S. Aviation – Helicopter; Clackamas Community College: A.A.S. in Wildland Fire Management and Certificate of Completion in CTE Instruction; and Oregon State University's B.S. in Public Policy.

Education Equity Plans Approved: In May, the HECC approved the updated [2018-2020 educator equity plans for the public colleges of education at EOU, OSU, SOU, PSU, UO, and WOU](#). House Bill 3375 (2015) requires that public educator preparation programs in Oregon, with guidance from the HECC, produce written plans to increase cultural and linguistic diversity in the educator workforce through recruitment, retention, and graduation of diverse candidates. The Chief Education Office incorporates the best practices and promising strategies from the plans into the annual Educator Equity Report which is issued in July.

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). [An update on this work was provided to the Commission at its April meeting](#). Learn more on the [House Bill 2998 web page on the HECC website here](#).

Unique state partnership results in 133 new PCC graduates in nursing, formerly students of now-defunct ITT Technical Institute: HECC and Portland Community College (PCC) announce in April that, as a result of the state's coordination and investment in 2016, the temporary program established to support nursing degree completion for former students of the ITT Technical Institute has concluded with exceptional student success. Of the 140 displaced students who enrolled in the program after the sudden closure of the for-profit ITT Tech in 2016, 133 students—95 percent—graduated. [See more in our press release here](#).

HECC Office of Private Career Schools Addresses Cosmetology Curricular Standards: In addition to its responsibilities for licensure and authorization of private career schools in Oregon, the Private Career School (PCS) unit of the HECC is also responsible for curricular standards in the field of cosmetology. Pursuant to OAR 715-045-0200, HECC is responsible for developing minimum curricular standards for each cosmetology field of practice. In conjunction with the Health Licensing Office (HLO) of the Oregon Health Authority, HECC has begun working with Cosmetology schools to redesign the standards and objectives for Barbering, Hair Design, Nail Technology, and Basic Esthetics.

Registration Open for July 19-20 Reach Higher Summit: Higher education partners are encouraged to register for the [Reach Higher Summer Summit](#), to be held July 19-20 at Western Oregon University. Reach Higher is a two-day summit designed as a learning opportunity for education professionals who support students in their transition from high school to postsecondary education and/or career training. The Summit is organized by the C3: Career, College, Collaborative of which HECC is a participating member.

Response to Closure of Marylhurst University: The [HECC issued a statement](#) after the announcement by Marylhurst University of their plans to close the university by the end of 2018. Marylhurst University has been operating for 125 years. They university reports that it is working with 81 students who could complete their degrees by the end of summer 2018, and preparing individualized transfer plans for the estimated 324 students remaining this fall to help ensure they're able to complete their degrees.

## **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.

State Commission for AmeriCorps and Volunteerism transferred to the HECC: With changes made by the Oregon Legislature in 2018, the Oregon Volunteers: Commission for Voluntary Action & Service will transfer from the Governor's Office to the HECC, through House Bill 5201 and House Bill 4163. The change is effective July 1, 2018. Oregon Volunteers' mission is focused on strengthening communities by inspiring Oregonians to actively engage, volunteer, and serve, and promoting and supporting AmeriCorps activities.

## **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](http://oregon.gov/HigherEd).