



# Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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## November Agency Update:

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

**Recent Work:** The HECC continues to implement a [Strategic Framework 2017-21](#) 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 Success, 3) Streamlining Learner PATHWAYS, and 4) Expanding Opportunity through OUTREACH. These four Strategic Action Areas are aimed to achieve the Commission's Strategic Goals for STUDENT SUCCESS, EQUITY, AFFORDABILITY, and ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACT. The success will be measured against these four goals. [At each Commission meeting](#), the executive director presents a "Strategic Initiatives Tracker" that describes recent progress in each of the four priority areas.

**Preparing for the 2019 Legislative Session:** As the State of Oregon's single, comprehensive portal to all sectors of higher education, each session, the HECC presents to the Oregon Legislature policy and budget proposals to strategically invest in Oregon's postsecondary institutions and the students and communities they serve. As the 2019 session approaches, we will link to [key resources for the Session on our website here](#).

**Oregon Adopts New Adult Educational Attainment Goal:** On November 8, the HECC, in partnership with the Workforce and Talent Development Board (WTDB), announced the approval of a new educational attainment goal for adult working-age Oregonians that is specifically targeted to meet current and projected job opportunities. The new adult educational goal for the State of Oregon is intended to foster economic mobility, supporting Oregonians in preparing for family-wage jobs of the future. The goal is stated as follows: "Oregon anticipates more than 120,000 additional jobs requiring post-secondary training or education between now and 2030. In order to meet this need, 300,000 additional adult Oregonians should earn a new degree, certificate or credential valued in the workforce during that time."

## 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.](#)*

**ABOUT US:** The HECC is the 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

### Higher Education Coordinating Commission Meeting:

December 13, 2018, Salem, Oregon  
*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)*

*Because Oregon has substantial attainment gaps among minority, low income and rural Oregonians, the state will also commit to reducing those attainment gaps by half during the decade."*

We invite our partners to share the news on this new goal, which is intended to guide progress in Oregon's educational and workforce systems, and to be considered in conjunction with Oregon's 40-40-20 educational attainment goal for youth in the educational pipeline.

- [Learn more about the new goal in our press release here.](#)
- See our [web page on state higher education and workforce goals here.](#)

OSAC Brings Financial Aid Info to Thousands through Fall Outreach: Each year, the HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) sends staff to dozens of events across the state to talk with students and families about how to plan and pay for college. Since July 2018, OSAC's small team has given presentations or hosted informational tables at over 60 events with more than 9,000 students and families in attendance. In addition to events, OSAC hosts webinars, and provides free access to publications, videos, posters, brochures, and more on resources to prepare and pay for college. [Explore our outreach resources here.](#)

Tax Credit Auction Results in Boost for Oregon Opportunity Grant: The HECC is pleased to announce that the 2018 [College Opportunity Grant Tax Credit Auction](#) resulted in \$14M of successful bids, the funds from which will expand the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) program to support postsecondary education affordability for the 2019-2020 school year. This auction was held for the first time in August, 2018, giving Oregon taxpayers the opportunity to benefit from state tax credits while supporting the state's longstanding need-based grant program for postsecondary education.

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

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) encourages students statewide to apply now for grants and scholarships at [OregonStudentAid.gov](#).

1<sup>st</sup> Step for State and Federal Aid is FAFSA or ORSAA: 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. The FAFSA is the primary application for federal and state financial aid, and the ORSAA is Oregon's alternative to the FAFSA for undocumented students. Information from the FAFSA or the ORSAA are used to determine students' eligibility for the Oregon Promise, the Oregon Opportunity Grant, and numerous scholarships. The FAFSA is also used to determine eligibility for federal aid, including the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Direct Loans, and Federal Work-Study.

OSAC Scholarships: Starting November 1, Oregon students may explore over 600 privately-funded scholarships and apply for up to 40 with one application. There is no cost to apply. Scholarship funds are available for: graduating high school seniors; college undergraduate and graduate students; GED® students; homeschooled students; community college and vocational school students; single parents returning to school, and more. Students must apply online at [OregonStudentAid.gov](#) and submit a completed [OSAC scholarship application](#) and all other required materials by the final deadline of March 1, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. (PST). Students who submit their applications by February 15, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. may be entered in a drawing to win a \$1,000 OSAC Early Bird scholarship.

Oregon Opportunity Grant: The [Oregon Opportunity Grant](#) is Oregon's largest state-funded, need-based grant program that helps students pay for college at public community colleges, public universities, and participating private institutions statewide. These grants are awarded until funds are exhausted, so students should file their FAFSA (or ORSAA, if applicable) as soon as possible. Students who were first-time Opportunity Grant recipients in 2018-19 will be considered for a guaranteed second year award, providing they meet [certain additional criteria detailed here](#) and submit a 2019-20 FAFSA or ORSAA by May 1, 2019 for the upcoming school year.

Oregon Promise: Current high school seniors and GED® test graduates may apply for the [Oregon Promise Grant](#), which helps to cover tuition at Oregon community colleges. Students must enroll in a community college within six months of graduation and in accordance with Oregon Promise deadlines. Minimum GPA® requirements apply. Visit [OregonStudentAid.gov](#) for eligibility details. The program has rolling deadlines depending upon graduation date; [use the "Find Your Deadline" tool](#). Students who are graduating between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 can [complete an application now](#). Students are also required to complete either the FAFSA or the ORSAA by the deadline.

Oregon National Guard Tuition Assistance: This new program is established to provide funding for tuition at Oregon community colleges (up to 90 credits) and Oregon public universities (up to 180 credits) for current Oregon National Guard members. For additional information on deadlines, eligibility requirements, and how to apply, [visit our website here](#).

[Oregon Chafee Education and Training Grant](#): The Chafee grant, a federal program administered in partnership with the Oregon Department of Human Services, helps current and former child welfare foster youth pay for postsecondary education and training. For information on the grant, visit the [Chafee section of our website OregonStudentAid.gov](#). Students should plan to apply online at [OregonStudentAid.gov](#) and complete a 2019-20 FAFSA.

[Additional Resources](#): To help students understand the programs detailed here, and the application processes, OSAC offers numerous [videos and resources for students, counselors, students, parents, and educators](#).

[FAFSA Plus+](#): OSAC continues to invite applicants for FAFSA Plus+. 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 information about FAFSA completions with participating sites, allowing site staff to provide targeted assistance to high school seniors and their families. 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](#).

[New Resource for Students and Families on Financial Aid and Dual Credit](#): The HECC is pleased to share new a [resource document answering Frequently Asked Questions about Financial Aid and College Credits Earned in High School](#).

[Report on 529 College Savings Plans](#): The HECC recently finalized a [report on 529 College Savings plans](#), pursuant to Senate Bill 1554 (2018). The report focuses on the effects of including college savings plan assets in calculations for state higher education financial aid programs, among other policy recommendations.

### **Supporting Pathways and Student Success:**

[New Brand, New Transfer Tools](#): Oregon's statewide transfer tools now have a new identity as the "[Oregon Transfer Compass](#)" to help students recognize and use them. The HECC has been working to help ensure that credits transfer smoothly from Oregon's community colleges to the state's seven public universities and that transfer tools are easily identifiable and comprehensible to students, faculty, and staff. For more information on [the tools available through Oregon Transfer Compass](#), [click here](#).

[Academic Program Approvals](#): At its October and November 2018 meetings, the Commission approved five new academic programs at Oregon's public community colleges and universities. Community Colleges: Chemeketa Community College, [A.A.S. in Cybersecurity](#); Tillamook Bay Community College, [A.A.S. in Criminal Justice and Public Safety](#). Universities: Portland State University, [M.A. in Nonprofit Leadership](#); Western Oregon University, [M.A. in Organizational Leadership](#); Oregon State University, [M.S. in Business](#).

[Report on Competency-Based Education](#): The HECC submitted a [report to the Oregon Legislature on Competency-Based Education \(CBE\)](#) August, 2018, focused on the effectiveness of CBE, barriers, current successful models, and recommendations for policy change related to CBE opportunities.

[EOU Mission Statement](#): At the August 2018 commission meeting, the HECC approved [the mission statement of Eastern Oregon University](#). In 2014 EOU led a community-wide exercise that reaffirmed the university's mission and core themes and the mission was then adopted by the Board of Trustees in 2016.

[GED® Educator of the Year Recognized at 2018 GED® Summit](#): Congratulations to Dulcie Hays, Adult Basic Education Instructor for the Oregon Department of Corrections and Blue Mountain Community College, who was awarded the 2018 Oregon GED® Educator of the Year award by Ben Cannon, executive director of the HECC, at the 2018 Oregon GED® Summit in October. The 2018 Summit, *From Moments to Momentum*, was attended by 290 educators and administrators representing Oregon, Washington and California, and featured keynote speaker Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici.

[OSAC Hosts Annual Conference for ASPIRE Volunteers and Coordinators](#): Nearly 300 ASPIRE volunteers, coordinators, staff, and other community partners across Oregon joined us this year for the [ASPIRE Fall Conference](#) on November 9 in McMinnville, Oregon, for a day of learning and collaboration focused on how to better support students as they plan for their future endeavors. ASPIRE is the state of Oregon's mentoring program to help students access education and training beyond high school.

### **Economic and Community Impact**

[Oregon Releases Talent Assessment on Current and Future Workforce Needs](#): The HECC and Workforce and Talent Development Board (WTDB) recently announced the release of the [Oregon Talent Assessment](#). This report is the first in a series of biennial assessments to address the talent needs of Oregon businesses, and how to best prepare Oregonians for the evolving 21st century workforce. Developed by ECONorthwest in partnership with Program and Policy Insight, the assessment is the

result of a year of research on business needs and labor projections, including engagement with hundreds of business representatives from industries critical to Oregon's economy. Read more in our [press release here](#).

Oregon's Healthcare Pipeline Conference Focuses on Building a Skilled Workforce: On November 7, the HECC Office of Workforce Investment and the Workforce and Talent Development Board (WTDB), hosted the *Building Oregon's Healthcare Pipeline Conference* in Portland. The conference focused on models and best practices that can be implemented by healthcare organizations to develop and increase a skilled healthcare workforce in Oregon, and was attended by 150 partners with varying roles in the healthcare industry throughout Oregon and across the country.

**Other Updates:**

Higher education representative selected for Oregon Heritage Commission: Larry Landis of Corvallis has been selected by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to be its representative on the Oregon Heritage Commission. Landis serves as the director of the Special Collections and Archives Research Center, a department of the Oregon State University Libraries and Press. See the [press release by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department here](#).

For more on current work of the HECC, please see recent meeting materials, or go to [oregon.gov/HigherEd](http://oregon.gov/HigherEd).