



Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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November Agency Update:

November 2019 | 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. We are pleased to introduce Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom, who recently joined us as the HECC's first permanent Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and will be a representative for HECC in Government to Government meetings going forward. After years of proposing funding for this position, this position was finally created and funded by the Legislature in 2019 thanks to the leadership of Representative Alonso Leon and contributions from many others. (Read more about and Rudyane in "Other Updates.")

Recent Work: The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) has embarked on a statewide outreach process to inform the development of a new Strategic Plan for Oregon's postsecondary education system to improve educational outcomes across the state. With the support of a consultancy firm, Carvaggio Group, HECC is inviting public input from higher education partners, stakeholders and Oregonians statewide over the next month, and will soon distribute a survey that we hope our partners share widely within their networks. During this outreach and planning process, the HECC continues to implement its current [Strategic Framework 2017-21](#) that guides its strategic action. The Strategic Framework describes the Commission's vision, mission, values and beliefs, and four key areas of activity that are used by the Commission to prioritize initiatives: 1) REPORTING to Steer Progress 2) FUNDING for

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 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 and the Governor 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

Upcoming HECC Meetings:

Higher Education Coordinating Commission,
December 12, 2019

**Higher Education Coordinating Commission
Funding and Achievement Subcommittee
Meeting:**
December 11, 2019

For other [upcoming public meetings, see our website here](#). For email notices of upcoming public Commission meetings, or to sign up for our newsletter, go to www.oregon.gov/HigherEd

Success, 3) Streamlining Learner PATHWAYS, and 4) Expanding Opportunity through OUTREACH. These four Action Areas are aimed to achieve the Commission's Strategic Goals for STUDENT SUCCESS, EQUITY, AFFORDABILITY, and ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACT. At its November meeting, Executive Director Ben Cannon reported on the progress of each activity, and this update is available for review in the [Strategic Initiatives Tracker](#).

Tribal Cultural Items Report: Executive Order 17-12 established the Task Force on Oregon Tribal Cultural Items, aimed with determining information about potential tribal cultural items in storage or on display at state public institutions and agencies. In November, the HECC submitted a report to this task force, providing an inventory of potential tribal cultural items in the agency's possession.

Lumina Foundation "TIE" Grant Activities: Building Partnerships: In conjunction with the [Talent, Innovation, and Equity \(TIE\) Partnership](#) over the past few months, HECC staff have hosted 12 roundtable meetings with the equity populations. The HECC's focus has been to engage in authentic discussions with community leaders about equity disparities and degree attainment gaps facing underrepresented students of color and indigenous students in Oregon's postsecondary educational system. In an update to the Commission at its October public meeting, Executive Director Cannon presented an [overview of the findings from these engaging roundtable discussions](#). These insights will be shared with an experts' workgroup that HECC will convene later this year for the purpose of building the conditions within postsecondary institutions, in partnership with communities, for closing equity gaps. This workgroup will identify and foster best practices within postsecondary institutions, advise the HECC on policy and budget strategies for the State of Oregon to deploy, and help oversee the process of making small sub-grants to organizations/institutions to support promising efforts.

Affordability and Financial Aid:

The HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) continues to encourage Oregonians to apply for grants and scholarships at [OregonStudentAid.gov](#). 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](#).

1st 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, including students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

OSAC Scholarships: 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; undergraduate and graduate college students; GED® students; undocumented and DACA 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 2, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (PST). Students who submit their applications by February 18, 2020 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 supports low-income students, including both recent high school graduates and adult learners, who pursue undergraduate degrees at eligible public and private colleges and universities. Oregon Opportunity Grants are awarded until funds are exhausted, so students should complete either the FAFSA or ORSAA as soon as possible to be considered for the grant in 2020-21. Students who are first-time Opportunity Grant recipients in 2019-20 will be considered for a guaranteed second year award, providing they meet [certain additional criteria detailed here](#) and submit a 2020-21 FAFSA or ORSAA by May 1, 2020.

Oregon Promise: Current high school seniors and GED® test graduates may apply for the [Oregon Promise Grant](#), which helps pay for tuition at Oregon community colleges. Most students must apply for Oregon Promise during their senior year, or immediately after GED® test completion, in accordance with Oregon Promise deadlines. Students must enroll in a community college no later than six months after graduation. Minimum GPA requirements apply. The program has rolling deadlines depending upon graduation date; [use the "Find Your Deadline" tool](#). Students can [complete an application now](#). Students are also required to complete either the FAFSA or the ORSAA by the deadline.

[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 or to apply for the grant for 2020-21, visit the Chafee section of our website at OregonStudentAid.gov.

[Oregon's FAFSA/ORSAA Challenge](#): All Oregon high schools are invited to participate in the FAFSA/ORSAA Challenge. Participating high schools set a goal to increase their FAFSA/ORSAA completion rate by at least 5% compared to last year. Schools receive tools, resources, and reminders in order to meet their goal. The FAFSA/ORSAA Challenge was created by a collaborative group of agencies across Oregon including OSAC, Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Goes to College, ECMC The College Place, and Oregon Association of Financial Aid Professionals. [Schools can learn more and register online.](#)

[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](#).

Supporting Pathways and Student Success

[Dr. John Bouchard awarded "Oregon GED® Program Educator of the Year" award](#): The HECC is pleased to extend congratulations to Oregon's GED® Program Educator of the Year, Dr. John Bouchard from the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) in Bend, Oregon. Through this award, the State of Oregon recognizes outstanding expertise in supporting success for high school equivalency learners of all backgrounds, collaboration with other educators, and innovative leadership inside and outside the classroom. The award was presented by Executive Director Cannon at the Oregon GED® Program Summit on October 16. Read more in our [recent newsletter here](#).

[Report on National Career Readiness Certificate](#): After Commission review at the November public meeting, the HECC recently submitted [a report on The National Career Readiness Certificate \(NCRC\)](#) to the Oregon Legislature. The NCRC is a portable, evidence-based credential that certifies the essential skills for workplace success. To-date, over 75,000 individuals across Oregon have earned an NCRC.

[Commission Considers Community College Boundary District Changes](#): Over the last several months, HECC commissioners and staff have been examining the possibility of altering two community college service district boundaries in order to better serve residents and students. The Commission serves as the body responsible for proposing and receiving petitions on boundary changes, investigating and holding hearings on the merits of such changes, and recommending to the Legislature whether such proposed changes should be finalized. The recent proposed changes would impact Lane Community College, Klamath Community College, and Central Oregon Community College Service Districts. Read more in our [recent newsletter here](#).

["Core Transfer Maps" Available to Community College Transfer Students](#): HECC, in partnership with the state's public postsecondary institutions, announced in early 2019 that students at all 17 Oregon community colleges can now benefit from a new set of transfer tools called the "Core Transfer Maps" (CTMs). The Core Transfer Maps guide Oregon community college students to groups of eight classes they can choose to take if they are thinking about transferring to a university in the future. When the full set of eight courses are successfully completed at an Oregon community college, they are guaranteed to transfer to any Oregon public university, and will count toward that university's core bachelor's degree requirements. [Learn more here](#).

[Academic Program Approvals](#): At its October Commission meetings, the Commission approved the following academic programs at Oregon's public community colleges: Treasure Valley CC: A.A.S. in Agriculture Business, A.A.S. in Business Office – Administration, A.A.S. in Crop Science, A.A.S. in IT Cybersecurity and Network Administration. Details on these programs are in the [meeting materials](#). At its November Commission meeting, the Commission heard presentations from HECC staff regarding the community college and university program approval process.

[New Materials on the Funding Model for Public Universities](#): In the 2019-2021 biennium, the HECC is engaging in a review of the Student Success and Completion Model (SSCM), the funding allocation formula for Oregon's public universities. Approved in 2015, the SSCM shifted the basis for distribution of the majority of state funding for public universities from an enrollment-based formula, to a formula that weighed not just enrollment but also resident

student graduation and other factors. New background documents on this funding model and the process for review were presented to the Commission in November, including a new two-page summary, issue brief, and other informational materials which are [available on the HECC website here](#).

Economic and Community Impact

Opportunity for Tribes: Summer Corps Grants: The Oregon Youth Corps is currently accepting applications for Summer Corps grants, with a deadline of December 13. The goal is to serve all 36 counties as well as all nine federally recognized tribes. The primary objective of a Summer Corps program is to provide youth an opportunity to develop skills through paid summer employment where they gain valuable job skills while completing community focused, natural resource, and stewardship projects. [Learn more here](#) or contact Oregon Youth Corps at oycc.info@oregon.gov.

New Strategic Plan for Oregon Workforce and Talent Development Board: At its November Commission meeting, the HECC heard a presentation on the recently developed [strategic plan of the Workforce and Talent Development Board](#). Based on the increased rate of change in the economy and Oregon's talent marketplace, the WTDB leadership elected to shift from a five-year strategic plan to a two-year cycle. The 2020-2021 WTDB Strategic Plan is designed to help maintain and increase workforce system funding streams through more thoughtful alignment and legislative strategy that will provide the resources necessary to achieve the goals outlined in the WTDB Strategic Plan, the State Workforce Plan, HB 3437, and other WTDB planning efforts.

First-ever 10-Year Strategic Capital Development Plan for Public Universities Prioritizes Student-centered Modernization and Repair: At a public meeting on October 9, HECC released the final results of the state's [first-ever 10-year comprehensive strategic capital plan for Oregon's public universities](#), a project launched by the HECC in February, 2019. One top recommendation of the plan is to prioritize the improvement and renewal of existing capital assets, which account for nearly half of the State of Oregon's total capital assets and have a current replacement value of \$10 billion. The 10-year plan provides strategic guidance for maintaining and upgrading the public university capital portfolio through 2029. [Read more in our press release here](#).

Other Updates

Welcome Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom, who is HECC's first permanent Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). In this new role, Ms. Rivera-Lindstrom will lead equity and diversity efforts both internally and externally for the agency, supporting our goals for equitable outcomes in postsecondary education, helping staff uphold our Equity Lens in policymaking, budgeting, and supporting the HECC agency to become more inclusive, diverse, and equitable for all employees. Ms. Rivera-Lindstrom brings 24 years of service in education and extensive expertise in equity change and leadership, most recently serving as Education Equity and High School Success Coordinator for the Clackamas Education Service District since 2017. She previously served as Education Equity and English Learner Specialist for the Oregon Department of Education's Office of Equity, the Multicultural/ English as a Second Language Coordinator for Tigard High School, and numerous other roles in public education, including as an English Language/Native Spanish Teacher, ELL Assistant, Migrant Education Assistant, and more. She completed a Bachelor's in Social and Behavioral Studies, a Master of Education from Portland State University, and an education administrative credential and doctoral coursework at George Fox University.