



Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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September Agency Update:

August 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.

Recent Work: At its August, 2019, Commission meeting the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) began the [process of developing an updated Strategic Plan for Postsecondary Education](#). While the Commission starts on this 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 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.

Higher Education Outcomes for 2019-2021, Legislative Summary and Budget Fact Sheet: We are pleased to release summary documents to serve as resources to our partners on the results of the 2019 Legislative Session. The consolidated postsecondary education budget for Oregon includes investments in state funding for state financial aid programs, Oregon's 17 community colleges and nine Local Workforce Investment Boards, Oregon's seven public universities and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), and HECC agency operations. For a high-level overview of the postsecondary education budget, see the [Fact Sheet: Legislatively Adopted Budget for Higher Education 2019-21](#).

For a longer comprehensive overview of key legislative investments and bills approved during Oregon's 2019 Legislative Session, including bill descriptions, details on the biennial budget, capital investment information, and historical investment data, see the [HECC Legislative Summary, 2019-21 Postsecondary Budget](#)

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,
October 9-10, 2019

**Higher Education Coordinating Commission
Funding and Achievement Subcommittee
Meeting:**
October 9, 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

[and Key Policy Bills](#). In general, the 2019-2021 postsecondary education and workforce budget includes modest growth in most program areas, and allows Oregon's postsecondary enterprise to continue its work to support learner pathways and prepare Oregonians with the credentials needed for the 21st century economy. However, college affordability challenges and other barriers remain significant. While the investment in public institutions mitigated tuition increases, it did not eliminate the need for them, and financial aid investments were either flat or moderately increased. Resting on over a decade of serious underinvestment, the 2019-2021 investment in higher education leaves significant continued funding challenges in fully supporting opportunities for all Oregonians and supporting the trajectory toward Oregon's educational attainment goals.

[Lumina Foundation "TIE" Grant Activities: Building Partnerships](#): The HECC is advancing work supported by a \$689,000 Talent, Innovation, and Equity ("TIE") partnership grant from Lumina Foundation to help eliminate disparities in postsecondary success rates between Oregon's overall student population and historically underrepresented students of color. The grant supports a suite of state leadership activities aimed to improve postsecondary success in Oregon for African-American, Hispanic/Latinx, Native American/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander learners, with a particular focus on adult learners of color.

One component of this work is equity leadership and community engagement. The HECC is convening an Equity Leadership Council (ELC), a diverse and well-rounded group of equity ambassadors from educational institutions, community organizations, tribal agencies, and government partners to help our efforts to close equity disparities and increase degree attainment among our underserved populations. Within the ELC, we are identifying "Equity Champions" to join us in advocating for equity reform through relationship building and community engagement across the state. In Fall 2019, our Equity Champions are joining us in hosting numerous roundtable meetings with diverse communities statewide, including several recent meetings with Native American advocates, held on Thursday August 22 at Warner Pacific University in Portland and Wednesday August 28 at Chemeketa Community College in Salem. [Learn more about the grant activities on our website here.](#)

Affordability and Financial Aid:

The HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) continues to process applications for grants and scholarships.

[1st Step for State and Federal Aid is FAFSA or ORSAA](#): If students have not already done so, they 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.

[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. The Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) has been making awards for the 2019-20 academic year since March of this year. The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) limit for the 2019-20 academic year is \$3,500, the same limit as the two previous years. For 2019-20, maximum OOG award amounts are \$2,700 at Oregon community colleges and \$3,300 at 4-year Oregon public and private nonprofit colleges and universities.

[Oregon Promise](#): The Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) announced in July that, as a result of the state's investment for this biennium, there is no longer an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) limit for Class of 2019 Oregon Promise applicants. All eligible students who have applied and will attend an Oregon community college during the 2019-20 year will be awarded the Oregon Promise Grant. Class of 2019 applicants who previously had a "Pending" award status due to the tentative EFC limit will now be awarded the grant, as long as they meet all other [eligibility criteria](#). Applicants can view their application and/or award status in the [OSAC Student Portal](#). [Visit Oregon Promise FAQs for details.](#)

[350 National Guard Members Received Support for College in First Year of ONGSTA Program](#): The Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance (ONGSTA) program is finishing its first year with remarkable results. Over the past academic year, 350 Oregon National Guard Members have applied for the program with \$284,000 awarded over the first three terms. The ONGSTA is currently [accepting applications for the 2019-20 academic year](#) and encourages National Guard members to apply.

[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](#).

[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 from 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

[Approved Private Career Schools in Oregon](#): The Private Career Schools (PCS) Licensing unit, part of the HECC Office of Academic Policy and Authorization, is pleased to release its [annually updated list of licensed schools](#). Private career schools provide specialized training and certificate opportunities for students with specific career focuses, in fields as diverse as computer technology, cosmetology, health care, real estate and business. The PCS unit is charged by statute with licensing these schools to provide training, certificate and diploma programs to students in Oregon. In Oregon, most training programs longer than 16 hours, that issue diplomas or certificates preparing students for entry-level work, must be licensed. Counselors and partners can find and share this and other industry-specific lists [on our private career schools website 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 they will count toward that university's core bachelor's degree requirements. [Learn more here](#).

[Academic Program Approvals](#): At its June and August meetings, the Commission approved the following academic programs.

[Oregon's public community colleges](#): Central Oregon CC, [A.A.S. in Automotive Technology in Electronic and Diagnostics](#), [A.A.S. in Welding](#); Chemeketa CC, [C.C. in Computer-Aided Manufacturing \(CAM\) Fundamentals](#), [A.A.S. in Direct Support Professional](#), [A.A.S. in Legal Administrative Professional](#), [Certificate in Legal Administrative Professional](#), [Certificate in Procurement](#); Portland CC, [A.A.S. in Cybersecurity](#); Clackamas CC, [Micro Business Operations Certificate](#), [C.C. in Medical Billing and Coding](#), Tillamook Bay CC, [A.A.S. in Welding Technology](#). Oregon's public universities: OSU, [Executive Masters of Public Policy \(EMPP\)](#), [BS in Environmental Sciences](#), [BS in Business Analytics](#), UO, [MA in Ethnic Studies](#), [Ph.D. in Planning and Public Affairs](#); UO, [Doctorate in Ethnic Studies](#); EOU, [BA/BS/BAS in Informational Technology Management](#); Oregon Tech/OHSU, [Doctor of Physical Therapy \(DPT\)](#); Oregon Tech, [BS in Data Science](#)

[Approval of Oregon Tech Mission Statement](#): At its August meeting the HECC approved the amended mission statement for Oregon Institute of Technology, a requirement of ORS 350.075. Following Oregon Tech's recent review of the mission statement, amendments were suggested to reflect current program offerings, the University's commitment to diversity and leadership, development for faculty, staff, and students, and how Oregon Tech fulfills its mission. [Read about the changes here](#). The final mission statement is: "Oregon Institute of Technology ("Oregon Tech"), Oregon's public polytechnic university, offers innovative, professionally-focused undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the areas of engineering, health, business, technology, and applied arts and sciences. To foster student and graduate success, the university provides a hands-on, project-based learning environment and emphasizes innovation, scholarship, and applied research. With a commitment to diversity and leadership development, Oregon Tech offers statewide educational opportunities and technical expertise to meet current and emerging needs of Oregonians, as well as other national and international constituents."

Warm Springs Scholars Featured: In a recent [Madras Pioneer media story](#), two Warm Springs scholars were recently featured for their success in pursuing medical training with the support of HECC Future Ready funds. Kaliyah Iverson and Lynden Harry were selected several years ago to take part in the Tribal Health Scholars Summer Internship through On Track OHSU — a unique opportunity for young people from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Economic and Community Impact

The Oregon Youth Corps created a new partnership with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs this year which helped fund a summer work program on the reservation. 10 youth were served and completed a number of different projects with one of the goals being to provide cultural knowledge about their ancestral home land, water and plants. A focus was on the cultural foods and plants and how to harvest and protect the areas where they grow. Some of the projects completed include huckleberry bush protection, document and clear invasive species, maintain the community garden, document headwaters on or close to the reservation and engage in language learning activities.

Governor Brown Visits Youth Work Crew on a Fire Prevention Project, One of Many Summer Job Programs Supported by Oregon Youth Conservation Corps: A crew of 13 Oregon young people, busy with summer fire prevention work through the Heart of Oregon Corps in Central Oregon, had the chance to meet Governor Kate Brown who paid a special visit to their work crew on July 18. Governor Brown and program staff from [Oregon Youth Conservation Corps \(OYCC\)](#) visited the crew and their leaders from the Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (COYCC) program.

10-Year Strategic Capital Development Plan for Public Universities: The HECC completed a series of regional focus group meetings in summer 2019 to inform the first-ever 10-year comprehensive strategic capital plan for Oregon’s seven public universities. The 10-year plan will provide a target public university capital portfolio through 2029 and will be used to guide the Commission in its recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on the prioritization of state-funded capital projects for years to come. To learn more about the project, see www.oregon.gov/highered/10-year-capital-plan.

Review of the Student Success and Completion Model for Public Universities: In accordance with rule, the HECC is committed to reviewing during the 2019-2021 biennium the Student Success and Completion Model, the HECC-adopted formula that determines how the majority of state funding for public universities (the legislatively approved budget for the Public University Support Fund) is distributed to Oregon’s seven public universities. At its August meeting, the Commission discussed the [upcoming process and guiding principles](#).

Other Updates

Welcome Commissioner Akins, and Congratulations to Reappointed Commissioners: Please join us in welcoming Tayo Akins to the HECC. Commissioner Akins is President and Chief Executive Officer for Cascade Comprehensive Care and Cascade Health Alliance. He was appointed to a voting position on the Commission by Governor Brown, and his appointment was confirmed by the Oregon State Senate in May, 2019. In addition to Mr. Akins' appointment, the Oregon Senate confirmed the reappointments of Commissioners Vanessa Becker, Terry Cross, Lee Ayers-Preboski, and Frank Goulard.

HECC Deputy Director Bob Brew Retires, Ramona Rodamaker Appointed as Interim: Bob Brew, who has served as deputy executive director of the HECC since 2016, and was previously the designated HECC contact for the Government to Government education cluster meetings, retired in June, 2019. Since Bob Brew's retirement, Ramona Rodamaker has been appointed to serve as interim deputy director in addition to her current position as director of operations for the HECC. Veronica Dujon, Director of Academic Policy and Authorization, is now the Government to Government education representative for the HECC.

Administration of Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Transferred to HECC with Sunset of Chief Education Office: HECC is pleased to welcome the Oregon Longitudinal Data Collaborative (OLDC), the interagency program and team responsible for administration of a new synthesis of student information, the SLDS. After the sunset of the Chief Education Office, effective July 1, 2019, the OLDC team was transferred to HECC’s Office of Research and Data.

Partner News: Southern Oregon University Recognizes Native elder “Grandma Aggie”: In an August press release, SOU announced that Agnes Baker “Grandma Aggie” Pilgrim, who has been recognized as a “living treasure” by the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, would receive the Southern Oregon University President’s Medal.