



# Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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## September Agency Update:

September, 2017 | Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)'s [2016-20 Strategic Plan](#) provides a foundation and scaffolding for preparing more Oregonians with the degrees, certificates, and training they need to succeed in their goals and careers. The plan defines six key priorities that guide higher education funding and policy decisions: goal setting, public college and university funding, pathways, student support, college affordability, and economic and community impact.

**Recent HECC Work:** Please consider sending input to [info.HECC@state.or.us](mailto:info.HECC@state.or.us) on our [Strategic Plan Roadmap](#), which was discussed by Commissioners and partners at our August public meetings. We are grateful for all partners that joined us at table discussions over two days of [public meetings on August 9-10 in Salem](#), where we focused on identifying strategic priorities for postsecondary education in Oregon and discussed the proposed Strategic Roadmap as the first official update to our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. We were joined by many partners including the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) president, Oregon college and university presidents, students, employers, community-based organizations, the education manager of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, and postsecondary faculty, as we explored statewide challenges and needs in higher education. We are still synthesizing the results of these conversations, and enlisting input. We will use this input to develop a revised document for potential adoption at the upcoming October Commission meeting.

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, will join in the upcoming G2G meeting to extend [an invitation to meet with each tribe in coming months](#) in partnership with Dr. Carmen Suarez, Vice President, Global Diversity and Inclusion at Portland State University, and a member of the HECC Equity Advisory Council. 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. In addition, we will update the group on the status of the [HECC tribal consultation policy](#). In an effort to clarify communication and codify tribal sovereignty moving forward, HECC has been gathering input on this policy for several

## Our Commission

### OUR VISION:

*The Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is dedicated to fostering and sustaining the best, most rewarding pathways to opportunity and success for all Oregonians through an accessible, affordable and coordinated network for educational achievement beyond a high school diploma.*

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

### Higher Education Coordinating Commission Meeting:

October 12, 2017, Klamath Community College

### Private Career School Advisory Committee Public Meeting

September 14, 2017

### Oregon Youth Conservation Corps Advisory Committee Public Meeting

October 18-19, 2017

*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)*

months and expects to finalize it soon. Our partners can find former quarterly Government to Government updates as well as other information on work and initiatives in [Coordination with Oregon Tribes](#) located in the [Equity and Student Success](#) section of our website.

**Legislative Update:** The 79th Legislative Assembly adjourned Sine Die, Friday, July 7, 2017, and we are very pleased to share in this update our reports and fact sheets on legislative outcomes related to the postsecondary education budget and policy that will impact our collective work in this new biennium. This was the second Legislative Session since HECC was assigned its current authorities (in 2013), including our responsibility for recommending a comprehensive postsecondary education budget for Oregon. We take this responsibility extremely seriously at every step—from the initial budget recommendations, to the weeks and weeks of Ways and Means presentations, to fiscal analysis on policy bills, to reporting on outcomes of the state’s strategic investments. The consolidated postsecondary education budget for Oregon includes investments in state funding for state financial aid programs, Oregon’s 17 community colleges and 9 Local Workforce Investment Boards, Oregon’s 7 public universities and the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), and the HECC agency operations.

**Budget:** In the context of a challenging session with an overall State budget that included a \$1.4 billion shortfall, the State increased the postsecondary education General Fund budget by four percent from Current Service Level (CSL), reflecting the priority State leaders continue to place on improving higher education and workforce training. Resting on over a decade of serious underinvestment, the 2017-2019 budget substantially protects ongoing work but leaves significant funding challenges in fully supporting the trajectory toward Oregon’s 40-40-20 educational attainment goals. The State (General Fund and Lottery Fund) funding for all postsecondary education and workforce entities represented in the HECC budget totals \$2,027.9M, a four percent increase from Current Service Level, and the HECC budget represents 9.7% of the total State budget of \$20,929M. For a high-level overview of the postsecondary education budget, see [Fact Sheet: Legislatively Adopted Budget for Higher Education 2017-2019](#). For a longer comprehensive overview of key legislative investments and bills approved during Oregon’s 2015 Legislative Session, including bill descriptions, details on the 2015-17 biennial budget, capital investment information, and historical investment data, see [HECC Legislative Summary, 2017-19 Postsecondary Budget and Key Policy Bills](#).

The largest funding categories in the HECC budget include:

- **State-funded financial aid programs:** In a challenging budget environment, the State was able to continue investments in its major financial aid programs. The Legislature continued its investment at the \$146.1M Current Service Level for the longstanding [Oregon Opportunity Grant](#), Oregon’s largest need-based financial aid program that helps fund college expenses for approximately 42,000 students per year. The program received no increased funding, and the OOG at its current funding level supported less than half of eligible students in 2016-17. The State provided funding at \$40M for the [Oregon Promise](#) grant program, which covers most tuition at Oregon community colleges for recent high school graduates and GED recipients, and was awarded to over 6,800 students in 2016-17. Since this funding level does not meet the full projected cost for the biennium, the Legislature authorized the HECC to limit eligibility using income-based criteria beginning this Fall.
- **Community College Support:** The Legislatively Approved Budget (LAB) increases funding in the Community College Support Fund (CCSF) to \$570.3M, which is approximately \$20.3M greater than the 2015-17 LAB and \$6.4M or 1.1 percent above the 2017-19 CSL. The community college budget also includes \$3.7M GF for targeted student success programming, as well as \$0.46M Other Funds.
- **Public University Support:** The LAB increases funding in the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) to \$736.9M, or about \$69.6M more than the 2015 LAB and \$43.8M or 6.3 percent more than 2017 CSL. Under 2016-17 tuition plans approved by the HECC in June 2017 and incorporated into a budget note, these additional funds will lower resident undergraduate tuition increases for 2016-17 at Oregon Tech, Portland State University, Southern Oregon University, University of Oregon, and Western Oregon University by 3-4 percentage points per institution.

**Featured 2017 Legislation:** The State approved a number of significant bills that will impact our work for higher education affordability, equity, and student success. In addition to those described here, summaries of numerous other key bills pertaining to higher education are included in the [HECC Legislative Summary](#).

- **Improving Transfer:** With the passage of HB 2998, Oregon has a structure and momentum to meaningfully streamline the community college to public university transfer process, through the development of seamless 90-credit college to university transfer pathways. The new transfer pathways planned through HB 2998 will be a tremendous benefit to the thousands of Oregon students who transfer every year from a community college to a university by providing a clear, guaranteed route from community college to Bachelor’s degree. The HECC participated in a work group on the development of this bill with institution partners, and we look forward to implementing this important work.
- **State 40-40-20 Goal clarified:** With the passage of HB 2311, Oregon has refocused the 40-40-20 goal on Oregon youth and improving success for students moving through the educational pipeline. The bill also directs the HECC to create separate education and training goals for the working-age adult population. The change recognizes in statute what has been widely considered the purpose of the 40-40-20 goal since its initial codification: to make targeted improvements in the P-20 system that increase educational outcomes for today’s learners.

- Oregon Promise eligibility changes: With Senate Bill 1032, changes are made to the Oregon Promise grant, which supports tuition at Oregon's 17 community colleges for recent high school graduates and qualified GED® recipients. This bill gives HECC flexibility to apply income-based criteria starting this fall when considering applicants, when funding is insufficient as it is for the coming biennium. The recent legislation also provided for waivers of certain eligibility requirements for future students in several specific circumstances: students who straight out of high school enter into service with certain career and technical student organizations relating to agriculture or farming before entering college, students who experience significant hardship, and new recruits in the National Guard who are called up to basic training.
- Student support and success: Numerous bills passed this Session relate to improving student success, support, and equity efforts across Oregon institutions, including Senate Bill 231, which launches a task force on student mental health support; House Bill 2147, focused on increasing reporting of higher education enrollment and completion rates by school district; and numerous others.
- Cultural competency: House 2864 (2017) defines cultural competency and directs public universities and community colleges to establish a process for recommendation and oversight of cultural competency standards implementation for institutions and employees.
- Improving affordability: In addition to Oregon Promise related bills, the Legislature passed numerous bills related to improving affordability, including House Bill 2729, continuing efforts to develop Open Educational Resources (free textbooks and various media) for use in Oregon public colleges and universities; Senate Bill 182 supporting scholarships for culturally and linguistically diverse teachers; Senate Bill 253 requires increased communication of student loan information to students, and numerous other bills.
- Economic development: The State passed several bills that will foster the postsecondary education connection to economic development, including House Bill 3437, which establishes the State Workforce and Talent Development Board and transfers the work of the Talent Council to the HECC.

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

OSAC webinars and financial aid outreach: In addition to the HECC Office of Student Access and Completion's (OSAC's) administration of college access and financial aid programs for the benefit of Oregonians, 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..

Tribal Organizations invited to join FAFSA Plus+ Program: HECC-OSAC is still expanding the FAFSA Plus+ program. 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](#). FAFSA Plus+ is a year-round program that includes FAFSA completion activities and support, FAFSA completion events, financial literacy information, scholarship resources, award letter help, and other college access information. OSAC shares student-level FAFSA data and best practices with sites, allowing site staff to provide targeted assistance to their students who need to complete and submit a FAFSA, make corrections, and notify students who have been selected for verification. Please direct any questions to [FAFSAplus@osac.state.or.us](mailto:FAFSAplus@osac.state.or.us)

Oregon Promise changes: For 2017-19, the state funding for this program falls an estimated \$8 million short of the anticipated costs of fully funding the program this biennium. As a result, beginning with new applicants in fall 2017, if future funding levels are not sufficient to allow for grants to all eligible students, those students with the highest Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to their college expenses will not be eligible to receive Oregon Promise grant funding. For more information on the changes see [the Oregon Promise website, with FAQ, introductory videos, and more for students and families](#)

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

The 2017 Oregon Educator Equity Report is now [available here](#), documenting Oregon's progress in diversifying the educator workforce. This annual report is published by the Chief Education Office, with contributions from the HECC, Oregon Department of Education, and Teacher's Standards and Practices Commission, pursuant to Senate Bill 755 (2013) and HB 3375 (2015). We encourage sharing this report with others and use the findings to support continued improvements at each step of the education career pathway in order to achieve an educator workforce that is more reflective of the demographics of over 213,000 culturally or linguistically diverse K-12 students in Oregon's public schools.

New Programs Approved: In August 2017, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approved the following academic programs at Oregon public institutions.

- Community College Programs: Columbia Gorge Community College: Certificate of Completion, Manufacturing; Klamath Community College, AAS, Advanced Manufacturing Engineering Technology; Mt. Hood Community College, AAS, Engineering Technology; Portland Community College, Certificate of Completion, Cybersecurity Fundamentals; Rogue Community College, AAS, Mechatronics; Treasure Valley Community College, AAS, Medical Assistant

- Public University Programs: Eastern Oregon University: MBA, via distance education at Klamath Community College; Portland State University, B.A./B.S., Sexuality, Gender, and Queer Studies, BA/BS in Sonic Arts and Music Production; Southern Oregon University: B.A./B.S. in Healthcare Administration

GED outreach media campaign aims to reach underserved populations: The Oregon GED program completed a broadcast media campaign in July and August to connect diverse Oregonians with the opportunity to achieve the GED high school equivalency credential. Made possible by an investment of the 2015 Legislature, the campaign focused on reaching underserved Oregonians with GED preparation and testing resources. Partners can [view the 30 second television commercials here](#), and are encouraged to share the videos widely. In addition to the outreach campaign, the GED program also recently launched new website resources at [www.Oregon.gov/GED](http://www.Oregon.gov/GED) for students and partners. The HECC works in partnership with [GED Testing Service \(GEDTS\)](#), the 17 community colleges and other state, community, county and local partners to provide GED preparation and testing to Oregonians across the state.

Grantees Announced for Title II Adult Education and Literary Services, WIOA Title II: The HECC Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) is pleased to announce that after a competitive application process, sixteen Oregon community colleges and the Oregon Department of Corrections have been selected for federally-funded grants to deliver adult education and literary services. Grants totaling \$4.36 million, and ranging from \$20,000-\$639,000, will be awarded for the 2017-18 academic year, with the grant amounts dependent upon the number of students each program serves. [Read more here](#).

#### **Economic and Community Impact:**

Youth Employment: This past summer, the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, administered through the HECC Office of Workforce Investments, helped fund the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's summer youth employment program. They use our funds for one crew, and the Tribe's funds match it and run a second crew. We have been granting the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde summer funds for over 20 years. In addition, OYCC providers work directly with other tribes and partners and/or hire tribal youth.

Implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) continues with its emphasis on business-led strategies that serve a breadth of individuals including traditionally underserved populations: rural, communities of color, second/multiple generation impoverished and special populations such as the disability community.

#### **Events and Other Updates:**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual GED Summit: Connecting Students for a Better Future, organized by the HECC Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD), Oregon High School Equivalency Program, will be held November 7-8, 2017, in Tigard, OR.

The [ASPIRE Fall Conference](#) is an opportunity for ASPIRE volunteers, coordinators, staff, and other community members across Oregon to come together for a day of learning and collaboration. This year's conference is Friday November 3rd, at Lane Community College. Free continuing education credits will be available for attendees this year.

Juan Báez-Arévalo appointed as director of OSAC: We are pleased to announce that Juan Báez-Arévalo has been appointed as the permanent director of the HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC), after serving in an interim role in this position since December 2016. Juan will lead a team of twenty staff members responsible for administering state, federal and privately funded student financial aid and access programs including approximately \$190 million in grant and scholarship aid this biennium to help Oregonians achieve their postsecondary education goals.

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).