



# Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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## September Agency Update:

September 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 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 a Strategic Initiatives Tracker ([Aug. 2018 version here](#)) that describes recent progress in each of the four priority areas.

**Governor's Policy Agenda:** On August 27, Governor Kate Brown unveiled her [Education Policy Agenda](#) describing her strategy for creating a seamless system of education, from cradle to career, in which every student graduates from high school with a plan for the future. Woven throughout all of these efforts is a continued focus on the students who face the most barriers: students with disabilities, students of color, low-income students, and English Language Learners. On September 27, Governor Kate Brown unveiled her [Future Ready Oregon policy agenda](#) to close the skills gap for Oregon's students and adults by providing the skills they need to obtain good, family-wage jobs. This agenda lays out pathways to: a) ensure every Oregon student graduates high school with a plan for their future, and b) provide opportunities for adult Oregonians to "skill-up" and land a better job, one that local businesses need filled.

**Agency Request Budget submitted for 2019-21:** After stakeholder, institution, and public input and discussion over the course of several prior public meetings, the HECC Commission approved the Agency Request Budget for 2019-21 at its August Commission meeting, held at Linn-Benton Community College. 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 the submission of this document is an early step in the

## 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 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:

October 10, 2018, Newport, Oregon

### Higher Education Coordinating Commission Meeting:

October 11, 2018, Newport, 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)*

biennial budget process. The recommendation includes significant increases in funding for community colleges, public universities, state financial aid programs, and workforce development, and other strategic investments aimed to advance [Oregon's state education and workforce goals](#). The full document is available [on our website here](#). The Commission thanks all who provided input on the recommendations. [The next steps in the budget development process are summarized here](#).

**Native American College Access Grant Proposal:** HECC included in its budget recommendation a proposal to support postsecondary affordability for eligible Native American students, providing grants to cover tuition expenses at Oregon-based community colleges, public universities, and private nonprofit 4-year institutions. This would be a first-dollar grant, allowing the lowest-income students to have full access to other federal and state aid to help cover costs of attendance beyond tuition expenses. Modeled after a pipeline-plus program, the grant will be available to eligible Native American students who enroll in an eligible Oregon college or university within three years of completing an Oregon high school or a GED diploma.

### **Legislative Implementation Updates:**

**Oregon Transfer Compass (Implementation of House Bill 2998 Implementation):** Oregon passed groundbreaking legislation in 2017 to improve transfer pathways, and the HECC continues 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. The HECC collaborated with Workgroup members and students on a new branding identity for transfer tools that will help add greater clarity and accessibility to the available statewide transfer tool options. This work was recently completed and Oregon statewide transfer tools will now be referred to as the Oregon Transfer Compass. For more information on tools available through [Oregon Transfer Compass click here](#).

**College Opportunity Grant Tax Credit Auction:** In 2018, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 1528 creating a tax credit auction for contributions to the state-administered Oregon Opportunity Grant fund, modeled after the Oregon Film and Video Office auction. The Oregon Department of Revenue administered the College Opportunity Grant Tax Credit Auction on August 20-24. The total amount of bids received was in excess of the total amount of credits the state offered (\$14M) for auction, the funding from which will support increased need-based financial aid for Oregonians through the Oregon Opportunity Grant in 2018-19.

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

**Upcoming Financial Aid Opportunities:** Please encourage all current and prospective college students to complete the [FAFSA or ORSAA](#) as soon as possible after October 1. The FAFSA is required for federal financial aid (such as the Federal Pell Grant), the Oregon Opportunity Grant, the Oregon Promise, and many other forms of aid. Other applications for financial aid through the HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) will open soon: The [Oregon Promise Grant](#) application will open by October 1, and the application for [OSAC Scholarships](#) will open November 1.

**Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance:** The newest grant opportunity through OSAC is now available for current Oregon National Guard members. The HECC announced in July, 2018 the launch of the [Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance \(ONG-STA\) grant](#). This new grant provides funds for tuition at Oregon community colleges and public universities for current eligible service members of the Oregon Army National Guard and the Oregon Air National Guard who are planning to attend college in 2018-2019. Students can use the grant at any eligible Oregon community college or public university. Students must complete all application requirements to access the grant. [Learn more online](#) about ONG-STA eligibility details and how to apply.

**Request a Presenter and Free Publications:** Are you hosting a college night or financial aid event for students and families? 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 upcoming webinars, options for ordering publications, and a process for requesting presenters or downloading OSAC's *Finding Funds for College* presentation.

**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. Over the last 4 years, FAFSA Plus+ has expanded from a pilot with 4 sites, to 238 sites as of February 2018. 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 June and August 2018 meetings, the Commission approved the following academic programs at Oregon's public community colleges and universities: Chemeketa Community College, [A.A.S. Multimedia Arts](#), [Certificate of Completion in Wine Hospitality Operations](#); Lane Community College, [A.A.S. Commercial](#)

[Unmanned Aerial Systems](#); Oregon Coast Community College, [A.A.S. Early Childhood Education](#); Portland Community College, [A.A.S. Construction Management](#), [Certificate of Completion in Supply Chain Management and Logistics Engineering](#); Southwestern Oregon Community College, [Certificate of Completion in Data Center Technician](#), [A.A.S. Fire Science](#), [A.A.S. Hospitality and Tourism Management](#), [A.A.S. Public Safety](#); Oregon State University, [B.S. Architectural Engineering](#), [B.S. Elementary Education](#); Portland State University, [B.A./B.S. Indigenous Native American Studies](#), [B.A./B.S. Special Education](#); Western Oregon University, [AB Liberal Studies](#).

**2018 Oregon Educator Equity report:** The Chief Education Office in partnership with the Oregon Educator Equity Advisory Group, along with staff from the Oregon Department of Education, Teacher Standards and Practices Commission and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission has released the [2018 Oregon Educator Equity Report](#), which was submitted to the Legislature in June, 2018.

**Reach Higher Summit:** More than 200 participants attended the Reach Higher Summer Summit at Western Oregon University in July, 2018, convened by [C3: Career College Collaborative](#). The event mobilized career and college advising supports for all students and grew out of extensive cross-sector collaboration involving leaders from K-12 schools/districts, higher education institutions, state agencies and community-based organizations.

**Cultural Competency on Campus:** HECC was a sponsor and participant in [Summer Institute: Cultural Competency on Campus, Implementing House Bill 2864](#), which was convened by Campus Compact in August, 2018. In 2017, the Oregon State Legislature passed HB 2864, requiring public universities and community colleges in Oregon to designate a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion committee that will provide oversight for the implementation of a plan with standards on building an inclusive campus culture. This Summer Institute gathered higher education colleagues, working on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives on campus to explore implementation of this bill.

### **Economic and Community Impact**

**Future Ready:** The Higher Education Coordinating Commission's [Office of Workforce Investments \(OWI\)](#) and the [Oregon Workforce and Talent Development Board \(WTDB\)](#) are playing key roles in supporting the realization of the Governor's vision in this area.

**Oregon Talent Assessment:** On September 14, the Oregon Workforce and Talent Development Board (WTDB) reviewed the new Oregon Talent Assessment, with final adoption anticipated at an upcoming meeting. This Talent Assessment is the result of a nearly year-long effort by the WTDB, HECC staff, and the state contractor, EconNW, to understand current and future talent needs. The WTDB and HECC co-hosted a groundbreaking [Oregon Talent Summit in May, 2018](#) to inform this work. The Talent Summit has significant implications for the future of higher education, and the Commission will receive a briefing and have the opportunity to discuss it at their October public meeting in Newport, Oregon. The Talent Assessment is posted with other meeting materials (as available), in the [Public Meetings](#) section of the WTDB website.

**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 transferred from the Governor's Office to the HECC, through House Bill 5201 and House Bill 4163. The change was 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.

**STEM Investment Council support transferred to HECC:** Effective July 1, 2018, the support of the STEM Investment Council transitioned from the Chief Education Office to the HECC Office of Workforce Investments. Oregon's STEM Investment Council has a legislative mandate to guide the Chief Education Officer in the development and implementation of a long-term strategy to advance the state's STEM goals.

### **Other Updates:**

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

**ASPIRE Fall Conference coming up:** The [2018 ASPIRE Fall Conference](#) is scheduled for November 9th at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon. The ASPIRE Fall Conference is an opportunity for ASPIRE volunteers, coordinators, staff, and other community partners across Oregon to come together for a day of learning and collaboration.

**GED Summit coming up:** Registration is open for this year's [Oregon GED® Program Summit, From Moments to Momentum](#), to be held October 18-19, 2018 in Portland. This collaborative professional development event brings together educators and administrators, inside and outside the academic field, to share their knowledge, educational practices and resources to promote the success of GED® test students.