



Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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June Agency Update:

June, 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 guides higher education funding and policy decisions, including: goal setting, public college and university funding, pathways, student support, college affordability, and economic and community impact. The HECC launched an expanded website in late 2016 at www.oregon.gov/highered, and among the new resources, partners can now find this and 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. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is a prominent theme and guiding priority for the HECC.

Tribal Consultation Policy:

HECC greatly values its relationship with each of the nine tribes and in an effort to clarify communication and codify tribal sovereignty moving forward, has shared a draft Tribal Consultation policy, previously disseminated to the Education Chairs. HECC leadership will be in attendance at the June G2G and looks forward to receiving input and feedback.

Recent Commission Work: During recent meetings, the Commission has discussed progress and strategic direction on each of the six Strategic Plan themes (see above), to inform an update to the Strategic Plan for 2017. From March through May, the Commission also carried out its statutory responsibility to review undergraduate resident tuition increases above five percent proposed by five of Oregon's public universities: Oregon Institute of Technology, Portland State University, Southern Oregon University, University of Oregon, and Western Oregon University. The Commission ultimately approved the proposed increases at all five universities following several months of public meetings on tuition process, extensive student and stakeholder testimony, and evaluation of the universities' requests against a set of criteria substantially shaped by Governor Kate Brown, who on April 10, 2017 issued a [letter to HECC Commission Chair](#) detailing conditions for tuition approval. As a condition of approval, the Commission ensured that each university presented a concrete plan to reduce their proposed tuition increases if the Oregon Legislature increases state funding above current proposals.

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

Events

Full Commission Meeting:

August 10, 2017 (tentative)

Funding and Achievement Subcommittee:

August 9, 2017 (tentative)

Student Success and Institutional Collaboration Subcommittee:

August 9, 2017 (tentative)

Credit for Prior Learning Advisory Committee:

June 20, 2017

Oregon Youth Conservation Corps Advisory Committee Meeting:

July 12-13, 2017

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www.oregon.gov/HigherEd

In recognition of the unprecedented nature of this set of proposals and the complexity of their decisions, the Commission on May 25 approved a [joint Statement of Commitments Regarding Tuition Increases at Public Universities](#) to reflect their unified commitments drawn from the tuition review process, and to communicate expectations to the institutions going forward.

Legislative Update:

Budget: The Education Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee is nearing conclusion of its work, and the higher education budget is one of the few outstanding items. From March 27 to April 19, 2017, HECC completed its major presentations to the [Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education](#) on the comprehensive, integrated postsecondary budget recommendation for 2017-19. HECC and partners were engaged in a series of in-depth presentations on all aspects of the education budget included in the agency budget bill, Senate Bill 5524. This bill 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 to support college success, Oregon's nine Workforce Investment Boards, and HECC agency operations to support its work as the single statewide coordinating entity for postsecondary education. The full set of presentation materials is available on our website [2017 Legislative Resources page here](#). For a "30,000 foot" view of this series of presentations and topics, see the [first two days of HECC presentations introducing the higher education structure and strategic priorities](#).

HECC agency bills and status (as of June 14):

- [40-40-20 State Educational Goal Clarified as Pipeline Goal, HB 2311](#): With the recent passage of House Bill 2311 (2017), Oregon has clarified its 40-40-20 educational goal to strategically target young Oregonians rising through the education system. HB 2311 refocuses the 40-40-20 as a pipeline goal, applying to the expected high school class of 2025 (and beyond), rather than to all adult Oregonians. At the same time, it clarifies the state's commitment to ambitious educational outcomes for working-age Oregonians by requiring that HECC work with the Oregon Workforce Investment Boards and institutional partners on creation of a new set of goals for the adult population that are more aligned with career trajectories, educational interests, and projected job opportunities.
- [Oregon Promise, SB 55](#): With the passage of this bill, the State appropriated funding to maintain the availability of grants for the current year of students, who accessed the program in higher numbers than expected.
- [Oregon Promise, SB 1032](#): This bill if enacted would lift the \$10 million dollar annual cap on program expenses to allow the program to serve multiple cohorts of students. It is currently in the Joint Ways and Means Committee and will receive amendments as needed based on funding.
- [Accelerated College Credit Programs: HB 2313](#): This bill codifies accelerated learning credit standards adopted by the HECC in 2016 and establishes an Accelerated Learning Task Force, is currently in Joint Ways and Means due to fiscal impact.
- [University evaluations and other minor/technical changes: SB 54](#): This legislation changes the public university evaluation schedule from annual to biennial, in an effort to allow the Commission time to provide a comprehensive review of individual institutions. It is currently on the House desk awaiting transfer to the speaker.
- [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity \(WIOA\) Act: HB 2312](#): With the passage of this legislation, Oregon will change references in state statutes from Workforce Investment Act to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, consistent with the name of this federal law (which HECC implements in partnership with other agencies).
- [Agency statutory "clean-up", HB 2314](#): With the passage of this bill, eight minor technical statutory issues for the HECC were resolved.

Higher education legislation:

HECC has tracked, analyzed, and presented testimony or impact statements on hundreds of bills this session, but we feature here a few highlights of recent activity:

- [Improving Transfer, HB 2998](#): This legislation would improve student transfer outcomes by creating foundational 90-credit major-specific pathways for transfer from community college to universities. HECC staff participated in a legislative workgroup with colleges and universities on the development of this bill, which is currently in Ways and Means.
- [Student Mental Health, SB 231](#): This bill, which is in Ways and Means, requires HECC to convene a task force to evaluate the delivery of mental health services to students. HECC worked with the Oregon Student Association to include the Oregon Health Authority in the bill, strengthening the work that can be done on this critical issue.
- [Open Educational Resources \(OER\), HB 2729](#): This bill, which is in Ways and Means, would build on current efforts underway to develop and market free textbooks (Open Educational Resources) and course materials for use in Oregon colleges and universities. HECC has worked to make OER adoption and expansion a campus-focused effort, and has worked with the proponent of the bill to create a campus-based advisory group that will determine how the next round of state resources, if appropriated, can best be used to advance this work.

- Postsecondary Cultural Competency, HB 2864: With this legislation, public institutions of higher education are to establish a process for recommending, and providing oversight for the implementation of cultural competency standards. The institutions are required to provide continuing cultural competency training and development opportunities to faculty, staff, and administration. The institutions must also propose goals and mechanisms for measuring those goals, that seek to improve a climate of cultural inclusion; as well as prepare a biennial report to the appropriate board for each institution regarding the progress towards achieving those goals. Furthermore, the institutions are directed to clearly communicate to new faculty, staff, and administrators, a commitment to meeting these cultural competency standards. The bill has been approved by the Legislature and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

In addition to ongoing work on outstanding policy bills and contributing to budget discussions, HECC staff recently provided informational presentations to the Legislature on its [management of the state GED program](#), as well as the [ASPIRE middle and high school mentoring program](#).

Affordability and Financial Aid

Reminder: Final Deadline for Oregon Promise July 3: The final deadline to [apply for the Oregon Promise grant](#) is just around the corner. The [Oregon Promise grant application](#) is open through July 3 for students who will graduate high school (or complete a GED) in spring 2017 and attend community college in fall 2017. OSAC will announce award amounts to students via email in August. Applicants must also complete the 2017-18 FAFSA or ORSAA by July 14. The grant covers most tuition at any Oregon community college for eligible recent high school graduates and GED® recipients. Funding for the Oregon Promise grant in 2017-18 is dependent on approval by the Oregon Legislature.

Student Child Care Grant: OSAC is currently processing applications for for the Student Child Care Grant for 2017-18, which closed May 31.

Oregon Opportunity Grant and other State and Federal Aid: [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. Students should complete either the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) or the [Oregon Student Aid Application \(ORSAA\)](#) as soon as possible for the upcoming school year. The ORSAA is Oregon's alternative to the FAFSA for students who are not U.S. citizens nor eligible non-citizens, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students.

Oregon Promise: early findings on impacts: 2016-17 was the first year Oregon implemented its pioneering Oregon Promise program, and we have seen an even greater participation in this program than expected. Nearly one fifth of Oregon's high school graduating class of 2016 – over 6,800 students – received the grant this first year. The Oregon Promise appears to be responsible for an increase in the total number and percentage of students enrolling directly from high school in community college, increasing that proportion by at least 1,100 students or 2.2% over the Class of 2016. The enrollment surge associated with the Oregon Promise also appears to be responsible for leveraging significantly more Pell Grants for Oregon students.

Tribal Organizations invited to join FAFSA Plus+ Program: HECC-OSAC is still expanding the FAFSA Plus+ program. We invite school districts, high schools, TRIO programs, Tribal Education Agencies, Indian Organizations, or community-based organizations to complete our non-competitive [FAFSA Plus+ Application](#). FAFSA Plus+ is a year-round program that includes FAFSA completion activities and support, College Goal Oregon (CGO) 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.

Supporting Pathways and Student Success

New Programs Approved: From April through June 2017, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approved the following academic programs at Oregon community colleges (CC) and universities. Community Colleges—Lane CC: Certificate, Baking and Pastry; AAS, Music Technology and Sound Engineering. Portland CC: AAS, Family and Human Services. Treasure Valley CC: AAS, Aviation Technology – Fixed Wing. Universities—Oregon Institute of Technology: MS, Applied Behavior Analysis, BS, Professional Writing. Oregon State University: BS, Geography and Geospatial Science. Southern Oregon University: MA, Outdoor Adventure and Expedition Leadership. University of Oregon: MA, Language Teaching Studies.

Report by Hatfield Fellow Report on American Indian/Alaska Native Students: In March, Mahalia Yakeleya Newmark, a Hatfield Resident Fellow with the HECC, brought recommendations and observations to the Commission on Oregon's higher education landscape and opportunities to strengthen relationships between Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes, American Indian/Alaska Native students, state agencies and institutions of higher education. Through HECC's partnership with the Portland State University [Hatfield Residency program](#), graduate students including Mahalia have had the opportunity to work with HECC on public service policy and research projects.

Capstone Study by UO Public Administration Students: The HECC is grateful for our continued partnership with the UO Masters in Public Administration (MPA) program, whose talented graduate students completed and reported on two Capstone research projects related to recent HECC initiatives in June:

- STEM Diversity Grants: UO Masters in Public Policy candidates Chazya Clements, Sona Hodaie, and Genevieve Schaack, presented their Capstone study "Increasing Diversity in STEM: Promising Practices for Oregon House Bill 3072 (2015)" in an [executive summary](#), [presentation](#), and [full formal report](#).
- Oregon Promise: UO Masters in Public Policy candidates Vé Gulbrandsen, Danaan O'Donnell Davidson, Brett Scott, and Jennifer Smith, presented the results of their Capstone project study "Promises to Keep: a Qualitative Analysis of the First Year of the Oregon Promise, in an [executive summary](#), and [presentation](#).

Oregon Promise Student Success: In concert with the awarding of Oregon Promise grants, Oregon community colleges have implemented programs to promote the success of students receiving this grant. The HECC approved and submitted the following report/s to the Oregon Legislature with an update on these programs:

- [House Bill 4076 \(2016\): Report to Oregon Legislature: Oregon Promise Student Support Services](#), April 2017

The 2017-2018 Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Statewide Course Credit Policy was approved by the HECC in May and is available on the [HECC website here](#). The AP and IB Statewide Course Credit Policy represents consensus among Oregon institutions on minimum scores and transferable credits for students. It is intended to provide transparency and consistency for students as they plan their high school course taking, exam taking, and postsecondary degrees and certificates.

Title II Adult Education and Literacy Services, WIOA Title II Funds: HECC Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) is in the process of reviewing responses to a Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) to distribute WIOA Title II funds for delivery of approved adult education and literacy services. CCWD Adult Basic Skills in Oregon through administration of Title II of the U.S. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), also known as the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. Title II provides federal funds to local providers and supports their leadership and professional development in order to assure quality basic skills services for adults across Oregon. Grantees will be announced this summer.

Economic and Community Impact

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 4th 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. We are now [accepting proposals for workshops](#) at this year's Summit. Join us by lending your expertise to our target audience of GED educators and administrators.

American Indian/Alaskan Native State Plan Convening: The HECC is pleased to participate in the continuing Chief Education Office community meetings. On May 11th, Cheryl Myers, HECC Director of Culture and Inclusion, joined the conversation in Coos Bay hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Coos-Lower Umpqua-Siuslaw.

Oregon's First Statewide Open Educational Resources (OER) Symposium: On May 11, HECC sponsored the first statewide Open Educational Resources (OER) Symposium, and it proved to be a great day of collaboration, innovation, and learning regarding OER as a means of affordability for students. Hosted by HECC in partnership with Portland State University (PSU) and Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC), the event included representatives from all 24 public institutions and partners, and focused on promoting cross-institutional collaborations.

OSAC Recognizes 3 High Schools for FAFSA Completion Efforts: During a year-end Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion celebration, HECC-OSAC recognized three Portland-area schools for their outstanding FAFSA completion efforts. OSAC was pleased to recognize the following institutions: Alliance High School - Collaboration Award, for hosting the most trainings and working closely with the other schools to collect and implement best practices, Franklin High School - Greatest increase in FAFSA Completion, with a 15% increase from 57% to 71%, and Grant High School - Highest FAFSA Completion Rate, at 74%.

Dr. Larry Roper Reappointed to Commission: Congratulations to Dr. Larry Roper who was recently reappointed by Governor Brown and confirmed by the Oregon Senate as a voting member of the HECC. Dr. Roper has served on the HECC since 2013.

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.