

Government to Government Tribal Education Update

June 2026

Higher Education Coordinating Commission - Quarter Two Updates

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) honors the sovereignty of Oregon's Tribes and seeks to collaborate on all postsecondary initiatives that may have an impact on their communities. In this quarterly agency report to the Government to Government Tribal Education Cluster, we report on our ongoing work and new initiatives to support Oregon learners and communities. Tribal partners can find previous quarterly updates, as well as other information on work and initiatives, in the [Coordination with Tribes section](#) of our website.

Featured Updates

UPDATES ON THE OREGON TRIBAL STUDENT GRANT

We thank the tribes for their hard work and cooperation in making the 2025-26 year another record-breaking year for the OTSG. The application for 2026-27 is still open, with a priority deadline of September 30 for 2026. Detailed updates are below.

2025-2026: The 2025-26 Oregon Tribal Student Grant application closed on September 29, 2025. Year-end data on the 2025-26 application cycle will be reported around mid-July 2026.

2026-2027: The 2026-27 Oregon Tribal Student Grant application is open. Students are encouraged to apply now for the 2026-27 academic year (Fall 2026, Winter 2027, Spring 2027). Students will need to complete the 2026-27 OTSG application. Once they submit their application, they will be prompted to

About the Higher Education Coordinating Commission

About Our Work: *The Higher Education Coordinating Commission is a state commission and agency working to drive postsecondary access and success for all Oregonians, meet workforce needs, and strengthen Oregon's collective future. The HECC envisions a future where all people benefit from the economic, civic, and cultural impact of high-quality postsecondary education, training, and workforce development. Learn more at www.oregon.gov/highered.*

Contacts: **Ben Cannon**, Executive Director; **Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom**, Tribal Liaison, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access, rudyane.rivera-lindstrom@hecc.oregon.gov, 503-689-4309. To sign up for other updates and newsletters, [join our mailing list](#).

Upcoming Meetings: Higher Education Coordinating Commission Public Meeting: June 11, 2026. For other upcoming public meetings of the HECC and affiliated boards (WTDB, others), [see our website here](#). For email notices of upcoming public meetings, [join our mailing list](#).

Funding Opportunities: See [Grant and Contract Opportunities](#).

complete the Tribal Enrollment Verification form, which is required for each academic year. Students will also need to complete the 2026-27 FAFSA or ORSAA. OSAC is currently reviewing/approving applications for all student levels. **The 2026-27 OTSG application will have a priority deadline of September 30, 2026. Students must have their 2026-27 OTSG application, 2026-27 FAFSA/ORSAA completed, and the Tribal Enrollment Verification form in by the priority deadline for full consideration.**

As noted in an April 16 letter from HECC to Tribal Chairs, **OTSG faces an approximately \$4.0M budget shortfall for 2026-27.** Based on subsequent direction from the Governor, HECC has begun to process 2026-27 OTSG awards without imposing any non-statutory eligibility restrictions. Qualifying applicants, including new and returning undergraduate and graduate students, are being notified that they will receive the full grant for which they are eligible upon enrollment in 2026-27. The Governor recognizes that **HECC should prepare to return to the Legislature in late 2026 or early 2027 with a supplemental funding request.** That direction was conveyed to Tribal Chairs in a May 4 letter/email, and via testimony to the Legislative Commission on Indian Services on May 26.

About the OTSG: The OTSG, first launched in 2022 and codified in statute in 2023, bolsters the opportunity for tribal members to achieve their postsecondary education goals, whether they have just graduated from high school or are adults wanting to start or return to college. To date, the OTSG has served students pursuing all levels of postsecondary education, including certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's, master's, PhDs, MDs and JDs. To be eligible for the program, students must be an enrolled member in one of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon. Students must also be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an Oregon-based college or university and complete a valid FAFSA or ORSAA. Additional eligibility information can be found on the [Oregon Tribal Student Grant web page](#).

HECC BEGINS IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSE BILL 4124 BY ESTABLISHING COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES

The HECC invites tribal partner engagement as we work on [implementing House Bill 4124](#). In 2026-27, the HECC will develop an analysis and recommendations on the public postsecondary system in Oregon, as assigned by the Oregon Legislature in House Bill 4124 (2026). This legislation requires the HECC to study the condition of the public higher education system and develop recommendations to the Legislature on the design, implementation, and operation of a sustainable system for Oregon by April 1, 2027. **Each tribe is invited to designate an individual to serve on a small, time-intensive Advisory Group that is providing project leadership. HECC will also continue to use Government-to-Government to keep Tribes updated and receive their feedback.**

[House Bill 4124](#), approved with bipartisan support in 2026, aims to address fiscal pressures and changing dynamics faced by postsecondary institutions in Oregon by launching a systemwide analysis to meet student, economic, and community needs. The work of developing the House Bill 4124 study will be a major focus of the HECC in 2026-27. By summer 2026, HECC intends to engage a contractor (or contractors) that will conduct the bulk of the project, including outreach, communications, data-gathering, analysis, and recommendations. In addition, we expect to establish a project leadership table. Learn more about these steps below. While the Commission will take final responsibility for the contents of interim and final reports to the Legislature that meet the requirements of HB 4124, we intend for our public process to build shared understanding amongst Oregon's diverse education constituencies about challenges and opportunities facing higher education.

As a first step, the HECC engaged the support of Oregon Consensus to help the agency in developing a transparent, inclusive, and collaborative process for this statewide project. The Oregon Consensus assessment, [HB 4124 Higher Education Revitalization Study Process Scoping and Design Assessment](#), now available on our [HB 4124 web page](#), is informing the scope, process design, and procurement of contracted services to support this study.

Oregon Consensus conducted a high-level scoping assessment through interviews over several months with groups who interact with the postsecondary system, asking for input on the foundational principles for the project, how to see success, challenges, best ways to engage, and more. In the executive summary, Oregon Consensus emphasizes that the postsecondary educational system is experiencing an inflection moment, and there is a recognized need and opportunity to reimagine the system in Oregon. The HECC is currently implementing Oregon Consensus's recommendations to establish a collaborative structure for this analysis, including: development of a **House Bill 4124 advisory group to which tribal representatives have been invited**, ad-hoc design groups to develop ideas on specific components of the system, a student voices group, a postsecondary institution finance and academic administrators group, regular legislative briefings, regional community forums across the state, and use of other engagement channels.

HECC LAUNCHES ACTIVITIES DRIVEN BY ITS NEW FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

The HECC's [Strategic Plan, adopted in October 2024](#), describes the vision, mission, goals, and strategies that the Commission intends to guide its work over the next three to five years. In recent months, the agency has initiated numerous activities to advance toward these goals. Updates on implementation of the strategic plan are provided at [public meetings of the HECC](#). The most recent public documents on the strategic plan implementation, presented at the May 7, 2026 public HECC meeting, are also available below. The agency launched eight new and changed activities in mid-2025, and at the May public meeting they were presented with an additional set of recommendations, detailed in the document below, that were under consideration. Since the April meeting, agency staff have decided to proceed with some of the additional activities, including a proposal to establish a statutory set-aside from appropriated financial aid funds for student basic needs.

- [HECC Strategic Plan Implementation Report Q2 2026](#) – update to Commission at May meeting

BELONGING - INPUT THROUGH OREGON'S KITCHEN TABLE

Among other priorities in HECC's [current strategic plan](#), we have prioritized a goal of **belonging**, focused on elevating learner voices and supporting inclusivity and belonging in postsecondary education settings. To inform this work, the HECC has partnered with [Oregon's Kitchen Table](#) (OKT) to gather input through an online survey and conversations from early April through June 1, 2026 on what helps create a sense of belonging in postsecondary education, with a focus on input from students and learners. In an [April press release](#) and outreach to partners, the HECC announced this opportunity, and hundreds of Oregonians have since responded and engaged on these questions. This process is intended to generate actionable insights to strengthen inclusivity and belonging across Oregon institutions. We are thankful to everyone who has participated in these conversations and the statewide survey.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Legislative and Budget Outcomes from the 2026 Short Session

Oregon's short legislative session concluded on Friday, March 6, and the HECC is pleased to share a [report on key postsecondary and budget outcomes from the 2026 session](#). This report details any new investments as well as bills and budget notes related to postsecondary education and training. The 2026 session largely focused on issues of financial sustainability and the health of higher education institutions.

Planning for the 2027 Legislative Session

Every two years, the HECC is responsible for preparing recommendations to the Governor on the comprehensive biennial budget needs of the higher education and workforce system through the Agency Request Budget (ARB) process. At its May public meeting, Commissioners received and discussed an

update on the [development of the agency request budget](#), including a [preliminary draft ARB based on current estimates](#), as well as list of [preliminary policy option packages \(POPs\)](#) for consideration. This was for discussion only, and the Commission is not expected to take action on the agency request budget until August 2026. Under the [budget development guidance](#) to HECC and other agencies, **most policy option packages in the ARB for the 2027-2029 budget cycle are required to be cost-neutral** and not require additional or new revenue. However, agencies will be able to describe long-term funding needs for the system in their narrative submissions. To encourage collaboration and promote transparency, [several external partners were invited to join the Commission's Funding and Achievement Subcommittee on May 6](#) to provide context, perspective, and feedback for consideration during the 2027-2029 ARB development process.

Legislative Concepts Underway: The HECC has filed a [list of placeholder legislative concepts](#) (LCs) that the agency is investigating for potential introduction in the 2027 legislative session. The list of placeholder LCs is the first step in a long process, and agency staff are just beginning to engage in conversation with partners to seek early feedback and input on these ideas. The LCs that HECC is considering for introduction are intended to be cost-neutral, according to the budget development guidance. Among the concepts, the commission had opportunity to provide input on an early concept (LC #9 on the placeholder list) to set aside a small percentage of Oregon Opportunity Grant funding [for the development of a program to award emergency funding](#) to students facing unplanned situations that may cause disenrollment, and could be resolved with small-dollar, one-time financial support. After discussion, the LC related to the Oregon Promise (LC #13) is no longer being considered at this time. Updates on the legislative concept and budget development processes, along with opportunities for public input, will occur at public HECC meetings this summer and fall.

EMERGENCY FUNDS REQUEST FOR SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

At its May public meeting, **the HECC unanimously approved a motion to ask the Legislature's Emergency Board ("E-board") to release up to \$15 million to Southern Oregon University** to address the university's cashflow needs through June 2027. In February of this year, SOU identified an approximately \$15 million shortfall in the funds that would be required for them to meet projected operating expenses during fiscal year (FY) 2027. In addition, the university projects that expenses will continue to exceed revenues in years ahead. In response to SOU's financial status, the 2026 Legislature appropriated \$15 million for potential release (pending approval by the E-board); required SOU to increase financial reporting to the state and demonstrate to the HECC a sustainable operations plan through June 2027; required SOU to collaborate with HECC to develop a plan, that without reliance on ongoing increases in state support, achieves a balanced budget for the 2027-29 biennium and long-term structural fiscal balance; and appropriated funds to the HECC to develop recommendations for SOU's long-term sustainability plan. To address SOU's longer-term sustainability, the HECC contracted with Deloitte Consulting, a global firm with a higher education practice. The details on these recommendations, and on [SOU's path to sustainability, are available on the SOU website](#). The adoption of a long-term restructuring plan, including any program reduction decisions, is the decision of the SOU independent governing board.

OREGON CONTINUES DISCUSSIONS ON POTENTIAL REDESIGN OF STATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION GOAL

The HECC is continuing discussions to develop a proposal for a new approach to Oregon's postsecondary educational attainment goals, aiming for a new draft goal for consideration by fall 2026. In November 2025, Oregon joined 12 other states in [Lumina Foundation's State Attainment Collaborative](#) effort to help Oregon update its state postsecondary attainment goal. In addition to benefiting from the multi-state collaborative, the HECC has been regularly convening an Oregon steering committee to advise staff on Oregon's new goal. The steering committee and Lumina work will continue through summer 2026 as the HECC works toward a proposal.

MONITORING FEDERAL CHANGES

While we assess the potential impact of federal directives, the HECC remains committed to our mission to advance equitable access and success in postsecondary education and training, meet workforce needs, and strengthen Oregon's collective future. We have a web page where partners can keep informed on [HECC's work in relation to federal changes](#).

Supporting Affordable Access

OTHER STATE FINANCIAL AID AND AFFORDABILITY UPDATES

Oregon Tribal Student Grant information is provided on pages 1-2 of this update.

FAFSA/ORSAA: To be eligible for most types of financial aid, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA). Resources on financial aid form completion can be found using the links below.

- [OSAC: Introducing FAFSA/ORSAA](#)
- [OSAC: FAFSA and ORSAA Information](#)
- [Federal Student Aid FAFSA page](#)

Oregon Opportunity Grant: The Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) is Oregon's largest need-based financial aid program, and students apply by completing either the FAFSA or ORSAA. For aid year 2026-27, we have processed applications through March 15, 2026, and currently, more than 50,000 students have been authorized to receive a grant, a similar number to prior years. OSAC issues grant awards until available funds are exhausted, processing applications by the application date. Students with an SAI of 8,000 or less who also meet other eligibility requirements will be awarded until the funds are fully obligated. Oregon Opportunity Grant eligibility recently expanded, pursuant to the passage of House Bill 3025 (2025), adding flexibility to award students who attend less than half-time. Please visit the OOG webpage for additional information and eligibility requirements.

OSAC Scholarships: Students can explore more than 600 scholarships through the [OSAC Scholarship Application](#). The scholarship application for 2026-27 is now closed. Scholarship selection is underway and continues throughout the summer. Students should continue monitoring their email and OSAC dashboard for updates and award notifications. Awarded students must log in to their OSAC account to accept or decline their award. Once scholarship selections are finalized, applicants who were not awarded will see "awarded to other applicants" on their dashboard.

Oregon Teachers Scholars Program (OTSP): The deadline for the OTSP for fall 2026 has passed, and review of applications and program enrollment verification is in progress.

Oregon Student Child Care Grant: The deadline for this program was June 1, 2026, and the deadline for eligible applicants to provide requested documents is June 30. Awards will be made in August.

Chafee Education and Training Voucher Program: The 2025-2026 Chafee Education and Training Voucher Program application is now open. [Learn more and apply](#).

Oregon Promise Grant: [Visit the Oregon Promise Grant here](#) for all information on eligibility and applications, including frequently asked questions. Awarding for Class of 2026 has begun. Due to the volume of applications and current funding levels, a tentative SAI limit of 18,000 was set for new students

(Class of 2026). These students are in a pending category until OSAC reevaluates the SAI limit in mid-July. Renewal students are not impacted by the new SAI limit. 2026-27 award amounts range from \$2,280–\$4,716 (full time, full year), and OSAC has started contacting students regarding their award status.

Tribal Access to Oregon Tuition and Fee Waiver: HECC-OSAC continues to be available to ensure eligible tribal foster youth and youth experiencing houselessness have access to the Oregon Tuition and Fee Waiver program. The Tuition and Fee Waiver ensures remaining tuition and fees are waived after other public grants and any school aid are applied. Eligible students can start receiving the waiver for the equivalent of four years of undergraduate studies until they turn 25. Learn more about eligibility at www.oregonstudentaid.gov. OSAC representatives would be pleased to help any tribal staff help eligible young people receive the waiver. Please contact Selena.Galindo@hecc.oregon.gov.

OSAC OUTREACH AND COLLEGE/CAREER PLANNING SUPPORT

OSAC offers the FAFSA Plus+ program for schools, community-based organizations, and other sites that work with a specific student population. Becoming a FAFSA Plus+ site allows an organization to upload a roster of students and then be able to see the FAFSA filing status for those students. Learn more and [sign up to become a FAFSA Plus+ site](#) for free.

OSAC continues our outreach and presentations across the state. Go online to [request support from OSAC](#) at an upcoming event or in a classroom, or to provide training to your students and communities. OSAC outreach is available to students, families, and career/college access staff across Oregon to provide support and guidance. [You can also sign up to receive our e-newsletters here.](#)

- **Free OSAC Publications and Posters:** Order or download free posters and brochures here, including the OSAC Poster—a quick reminder for students to apply for financial aid, including the FAFSA/ORSAA, grants, and scholarships. English and Spanish versions are available.
- **OSAC Webinars:** OSAC hosts a variety of webinars throughout the year for students, parents, and career/college practitioners. Our webinars provide up-to-date information about the programs we administer.

ASPIRE Program: The ASPIRE program helps educate Oregon students to become career and college ready. ASPIRE offers education, resources, and mentoring opportunities for all students. Student supports include 1:1 and group mentoring, activities that focus on career exploration, career and college research, admissions applications, scholarships, and financial aid. Tribes are welcome to join ASPIRE. [Learn more about ASPIRE here.](#)

Fostering Learner Pathways and Equitable Opportunity

ACADEMIC PROGRAM ACTIONS

HECC Approves Community College Bachelor's Degree in Education to Help Meet Oregon's Educator Workforce Needs

At its April 9, 2026 public meeting, the HECC voted to approve a new Bachelor of Applied Science - Education (BAS Education) degree to be offered at five Oregon community colleges—Columbia Gorge, Chemeketa, Linn-Benton, Rogue, and Treasure Valley community colleges—after a year-long review process. With the approval of this new applied degree, five community colleges will expand access to teacher preparation for place-bound and working adult students in Oregon, helping to address educator workforce needs in rural and remote regions of the state. The BAS Education proposal resulted from a multi-year collaboration among the five colleges, known as the BASE Consortium, which was formed in response to persistent teacher shortages.

Academic Program Approvals

The Commission has approved the following new academic programs. Details can be found in the [April 9 and May 7 meeting materials](#).

Community College New Programs:

- Chemeketa Community College: Childcare Development Specialist Registered Apprenticeship, less than One Year Certificate of Completion (CC); Construction Trades and Apprenticeship Readiness, less than One Year Certificate of Completion (CC); Pharmacy Technician, One Year Certificate of Completion (CC1); Education, Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS Education)
- Columbia Gorge Community College: Education, Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS Education)
- Klamath Community College: Business Management - Salon Emphasis, Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS); Education, Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS Education)
- Linn-Benton Community College: Mechanical Maintenance Apprenticeship, less than One Year Certificate of Completion (CC); Education, Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS Education)
- Portland Community College: Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, One Year Certificate of Completion (CC1)
- Rogue Community College: Education, Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS Education)
- Treasure Valley Community College: Education, Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS Education)

Public University New Programs:

- Oregon Institute of Technology: Dental Hygiene, Master of Science (MS)
- Oregon State University: Business Analytics and Applied AI, Master of Science (MS); Information Systems, Master of Science (MS)
- Portland State University: Artificial Intelligence, Bachelor of Science (BS); Criminology and Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Applied Science (BS)

YOUTH WILL HELP SHAPE THE DESIGN OF A DIRECT ADMISSIONS PROGRAM FOR OREGON

The HECC was charged by the Oregon Legislature with launching a statewide direct admissions program, and agency staff are [working closely with partners to design and ultimately implement the direct admissions program statewide](#). The HECC announced in a [March press release that the agency was awarded a grant](#) to support youth engagement in the design of Oregon's statewide direct admissions program. We are pleased to announce that we have now launched the Direct Admissions Youth Advisory Board, a group of high school students from across Oregon who will partner with us over the next seven months to help shape how Direct Admissions reaches and serves students statewide. Selected from 278 applicants, our 13 members reflect the diversity of Oregon's students, including **a student from Warm Springs Tribe**. Their voices, alongside their peers, will guide HECC staff on everything from program design to how we communicate with students and families. **Open Doors Oregon** (and in Spanish, **Abriendo Puertas Oregon**) will ultimately be the program names that students and families see when they receive news of Oregon's direct admissions opportunity.

NEW WEB PAGE FOCUSED ON EFFORTS TO ADVANCE COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL

The HECC, Oregon Department of Education (ODE), and educators across the state are working together to support equitable participation in college credit in high school for Oregon students. To keep our partners informed, HECC recently launched a [web page where you can learn more about this collaborative effort](#) in Oregon and find opportunities for engagement. Oregon's collaborative work to advance college credit in high school has gained momentum with a

two-year policy development project through the [College in High School Alliance](#), starting in 2025. Oregon is one of seven states in this multi-state initiative working to advance state-level policy. The HECC and ODE now have a joint vision for this work, and numerous efforts are underway to support all regions of the state. Stay tuned for an advising toolkit to be released in coming months.

TRANSFER COUNCIL BEGINS WORK TO DEVELOP A NEW GENERAL EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

The Oregon Transfer Council and Oregon institution partners are working to [ensure that transferring between colleges is simple, clear, and fair for every student](#). As part of this ongoing work, we are pleased to announce that the Council is convening a faculty subcommittee to develop an updated Transfer General Education (TGE) framework for Oregon public institutions. Updating the general education framework is intended to help ensure students do not lose credits or have them misapplied when they transfer. This also helps lower costs by preventing transfer students from having to retake classes. [View the General Education Charge and Timeline here](#). They expect to recommend a Transfer General Education framework to the Transfer Council in February 2027.

Oregon Integrated Education and Training (IET) Brief and Toolkit

The HECC Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) has published the [IETs in Oregon](#) brief, a newly developed overview highlighting the purpose, structure, and statewide implementation of Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs. IET is an evidence-based service delivery model designed to help adult learners build foundational skills while simultaneously progressing toward career and postsecondary goals. The brief provides a clear summary of the IET model in Oregon, emerging practices, and the role of IETs in supporting equitable access to workforce-aligned education. CCWD also released to community colleges the [Oregon IET Toolkit](#), a new comprehensive resource designed to support community colleges in developing, strengthening, or updating IET programs, as well as the 2027-28 IET application form. The toolkit outlines requirements of the three-partner IET model (Adult Basic Skills, Career & Technical Education, and Career Pathways) and provides Oregon-specific examples and quality indicators. These materials are intended to support colleges launching new IET programs, evaluating existing ones, or navigating significant program changes.

Discussions Proceed on CTE Math Alignment, a Component of Developmental Education Redesign

As part of Oregon's broader consideration of developmental education redesign, CCWD has convened a team of Career and Technical Education (CTE) and mathematics faculty experts to advance alignment between math pathways and workforce programs. The Math Experts Team (MET) began meeting in February 2026 and will continue monthly through the summer to develop a set of CTE-aligned math courses that more directly support students' intended career fields. Points of contact have been identified at each Oregon community college to support communication with faculty and gather feedback. After the review period, MET recommendations will be forwarded to the Math Approach Team and then to the HECC for consideration.

Responding to Workforce and Community Needs

STATE RELEASES THE 2026 OREGON TALENT ASSESSMENT

In a [May press release](#), we announced the release of the [2026 Oregon Talent Assessment](#), a research analysis focused on emerging trends in the economic and workforce landscape in Oregon, which offers recommendations for the state to build a stronger talent pool and workforce development system. The HECC and the [Workforce and Talent Development Board \(WTBD\)](#) contracted with ECONorthwest to develop this comprehensive analysis for Oregon. The 2026 Assessment provides a framework to help identify priority industries and occupations while highlighting current and anticipated major workforce challenges and opportunities. Highlights of the report were presented at the Oregon Talent Summit on May 19.

OREGON TALENT SUMMIT

Oregon's Workforce and Talent Development Board (WTDB) and the HECC successfully hosted the [2026 Oregon Talent Summit](#) on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 in person at the Salem Convention Center, bringing together more than 400 participants from across public policy, education, and workforce development for a day-long conference focused on "Bridging Vision and Action." Since 2018, the Oregon Talent Summit has convened leaders to explore implications and consider actions on critical trends, challenges, and solutions in workforce and talent development. This year's in-person Summit focused on turning strategy into action through collaboration, data, and practical solutions. We thank all who participated!

STATE AWARDS GRANTS TO BUILD WORKFORCE PATHWAYS IN THE SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY

In an [April press release](#), the HECC announced that it has offered \$8.5 million in grants from Oregon's Semiconductor Talent Sustaining Fund (STSF) to eight grantees to build workforce pathways in the semiconductor industry and support the growth of this sector in Oregon. The funds were allocated to the STSF by Governor Tina Kotek and awarded to seven higher education institutions and one nonprofit organization that are active members of [Frontiers of Advanced Semiconductor Technology \(FAST\)](#), a partnership led by Oregon State University and consisting of 95 cross-sector partners. These investments will connect Oregonians to high-wage, high-demand careers and further strengthen the state's semiconductor education and training opportunities.

TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP INVESTMENTS FOR REENGAGEMENT/WORKFORCE TRAINING

Oregon Youth Works, housed in the HECC, and Youth Development Oregon (YDO) continue to advance the Partnership for Tribal Workforce and Reengagement through an interagency agreement that established a pathway for collaboration with Tribal Sovereign Nations. For the 2025-2027 biennium, over one million dollars is available for tribes opting to participate. **We are pleased to report that many tribes are now engaged, and this opportunity will remain open.** HECC/YDO staff are currently meeting with tribes to connect with staff around allowable costs, upcoming trainings, and to share feedback on this agreement model. We also welcome input on whether a shared communication platform for resources, such as studies, trainings, and grant opportunities would be of value. **HECC/YDO staff are available for in-person programming visits later this summer, fall, or winter and look forward to spending time with partners.** Primary Contact: Jeremy Ahola, call or text: 503-689-6662, or email Jeremy.w.ahola@hecc.oregon.gov.

INDUSTRY CONSORTIA: RECENT ACTIVITIES

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), in partnership with the [Workforce and Talent Development Board](#), continues to convene statewide Consortia in three of our state's key industry sectors—healthcare, manufacturing, and technology. Each Consortium convenes quarterly for public meetings. During the second quarter of 2026, the Healthcare Consortium convened to discuss their work plan and priorities for 2026-28, as well as to hear the recommendations from the Governor's Behavioral Health Talent Council. The Manufacturing and Technology Industry Consortia held a joint meeting focused on the implications of Artificial Intelligence for the manufacturing and technology sectors. You can find more information, including public meeting materials and occupation profiles and wage data, [on our Industry Consortia web page](#).

New Reports and Other Updates

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS:

OREGON OPPORTUNITY GRANT REPORT DEMONSTRATES IMPACT OF OREGON'S LARGEST NEED-BASED AID PROGRAM

The HECC's [annual legislative report on the Oregon Opportunity Grant \(OOG\)](#) demonstrates the extensive reach and positive impact of the grant in serving low- to moderate-income Oregonians, even while serious affordability gaps remain. The OOG is the state's largest need-based, state-funded grant program and the grant **served nearly 40,000 Oregon students** across public and private institutions in 2023-24. The HECC's most recent report evaluates the program's outcomes from the 2023-24 academic year, including recent expansions to program eligibility and grant award amounts.

OTHER REPORTS:

SHEF Report Shows Trends in Oregon Higher Education Funding Compared to Other States: The State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO), of which HECC is a member, recently released its annual [State Higher Education Finance \(SHEF\) report](#), a highly-regarded standard for inter-state comparisons of state higher education funding. The most recent report features national data through fiscal year 2025 (the 2024-25 academic year). The HECC has produced a [summary document for Oregon](#) that provides a few highlights, with more information available in a [state profile](#) posted on SHEEO's website.

Other HECC News

SAVE THE DATE: 2026 OREGON ADULT BASIC SKILLS CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 16, 2026

Mark your calendars! The 2026 Oregon Adult Basic Skills Conference will take place virtually on Friday, October 16, 2026. We're excited to once again host this event in a virtual format to ensure broad access and meaningful participation from adult education professionals across the state. Registration details can be found on the [conference website](#). Agenda coming soon!

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT SURVEY

Some colleges and universities have begun to administer the Sexual Misconduct Survey. Schools have until August 2027 to administer the survey for the first time, and HECC will post the summary reports as we receive them on our [Sexual Misconduct Survey Summaries page here](#).

SOME HECC-ADMINISTERED WORKFORCE PROGRAMS WILL TRANSFER TO THE OREGON EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT IN 2026

The HECC is working closely with the Oregon Employment Department (OED) on a Governor-approved plan to transfer to OED several HECC-administered workforce programs that are focused on connecting adults, dislocated workers, and youth with essential career services. The changes are detailed in OED's [Customer Service and Workforce Strategies Action Plan](#) announced in [OED's March 5, 2026 press release](#), a plan developed in response to Governor Kotek's priorities for improved customer service and for more efficient, coordinated workforce services statewide. This change builds on an already existing partnership. The [Workforce and Talent Development Board \(WTDB\)](#) board and staff support, and several grants to local workforce development boards—programs that are currently housed in HECC's [Office of Workforce Investments \(OWI\)](#)—will be transferred from the HECC to OED. OED and HECC already partner closely to deliver services to Oregon's job seekers through co-location of WIOA Title I-B and Title III staff and services in WorkSource Oregon centers statewide. Moving all of Title I-B funding administration and programming from HECC to OED is intended to improve alignment across programs and support more efficient use of funding. Questions about HECC-OWI programs may be directed to Julia.Pontoni@hecc.oregon.gov.

OTHER HECC PUBLICATIONS

- [HECC Collaborations newsletter, May Issue](#)
- [Transfer Hub Newsletter, April, Updating and Revising the Core Transfer Map](#)
- [Oregon Promise Updates, April](#)
- [OSAC Monthly Newsletter, May](#)
- [Oregon High School Equivalency Newsletter, May 2026](#)
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