



Implementation Update: Oregon's MOU with NVIDIA – AI Ambassador Program

SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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Background: *The State of Oregon's MOU with NVIDIA*

Governor's announcement:

- On April 24, 2025, Governor Kotek announced a collaboration and investment to support workforce and economic development in Oregon's semiconductor and artificial intelligence (AI) sectors.

Oregon's MOU with NVIDIA:

- As part of the collaboration announced by the Governor, the State of Oregon entered a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NVIDIA, a leader in AI computing.
- The MOU established a collaborative framework for Oregon and NVIDIA to expand AI education and skills-building.

AI Ambassador Program and the HECC's involvement:

- Among other areas identified in the MOU, NVIDIA will work with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and Oregon's community colleges and public and private universities to launch an AI Ambassador Program, as indicated in the April 24 announcement.

AI Ambassador Program: *Definition, Scope and Eligibility*

HECC is administering the AI Ambassador Program, which will provide access to, and incentivize participation in, NVIDIA's Deep Learning Institute (DLI).

- DLI is a global “train-the-trainer” initiative designed and administered by NVIDIA to prepare educators – including both community college and university faculty – to introduce concepts and skills related to AI, accelerated computing, and data science.

Currently, NVIDIA and HECC are collaborating to launch the AI Ambassador Program to teaching faculty across Oregon community colleges and public and private universities.

- To participate, faculty must be currently employed and teaching at a community college or public or private university in Oregon.
- Faculty in all disciplines are encouraged to participate, regardless of their background with technology.

AI Ambassador Program: *Participation Incentives for Oregon Faculty*

NVIDIA is waiving all course fees and other costs for Oregon community college and public and private university faculty.

The State of Oregon is providing a \$1,000 stipend for each DLI course successfully completed.

- Upon successful course completion, faculty may receive a \$1,000 stipend per course for up to five courses.
- Stipend funding is limited and will be awarded by the HECC on a first-come, first-served basis to the institution for distribution to faculty until the funds have been expended.

Approximately \$1.5 million has been set aside for faculty stipends.

- The source of the faculty stipend is a one-time investment of \$10 million in available Oregon CHIPS Act funding that the Governor directed to Oregon's Semiconductor Talent Sustaining Fund, administered by the HECC.

AI Ambassador Program: *Implementation Strategy*

Anticipated Next Steps:



NVIDIA:

Finalize program details, including plans for two virtual information sessions for Oregon faculty, and open applications.



HECC:

Collaborate with community college and university leaders and program deans to share the opportunity with faculty.



NVIDIA:

Admit faculty on a rolling basis.

(Currently, there is no projected end date for Oregon faculty participation.)



HECC:

Disburse one-time funding for faculty stipends until funds are fully expended.



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