



NEWS DIGEST - January 15, 2016

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Legislative Days Recap

The Oregon Legislature met for three legislative days last week to discuss discussing several issues that will likely be taken up in the February short session.

Both the House Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development Committee and the Senate Education Committee heard discussions on topics ranging from the Oregon Promise to proposals to fund programs aimed at college

January 28, 2016

OCCA Board Meeting
Linn-Benton
Community College,
Albany

January 29, 2016

OPC Meeting
Linn-Benton
Community College,
Albany

February 8-11, 2016

ACCT Community
College National
Legislative Summit
Washington, D.C.

completion.

In the Senate Education committee meeting, Ben Cannon, Executive Director of HECC and Bob Brew, Director of Office of Student Access and Completion, gave an update presentation on the Oregon Promise. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

The House Higher Education committee also heard a proposal to provide funding for programs like [Advancement Via Individual Determination \(AVID\)](#), which help develop skills that students and faculty need to help students succeed and complete. Dr. Christie Plinski, Mt. Hood Community College Dean of Instruction, testified before the committee describing MHCC's success with the program.

The House Business and Labor and the Senator Workforce and General Government Committees also met jointly to hear competing proposals on the minimum wage.

Governor's Minimum Wage Plan

March 10, 2016

OCCA Board Meeting
Chemeketa Community College, Salem

March 11, 2016

OPC Meeting
Chemeketa Community College, Salem

April 9-12, 2016

AACC Annual Convention
Chicago, IL

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This week, [Governor Kate Brown unveiled her minimum wage plan](#) that would leave Portland and Oregon with some of the highest rates in the nation. Governor Brown's plan would set two rates for Oregon; a rate for the Portland metro area that would top out at \$15.52 an hour and a rate for the rest of the state that would top out at \$13.50 an hour. Increases to the minimum wage would be implemented gradually over six years.

Oregon's current minimum wage is \$ 9.25 an hour, \$2 more than the national average. Governor Brown's proposal was developed after conversations with stakeholders in both the public and private sectors, but does not represent agreement of labor and business groups.

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Campus Safety and Security Training

On Friday, representatives from all of Oregon's 17 community colleges met to discuss campus safety and security needs in Salem at Chemeketa's Eola Viticulture Center. The training was led by national safety and security consulting firm [Margolis Healy](#).

Participants were briefed on best practices in

safety and security plan development and given time to work on assessing their campus plans. By the end of the day, each college identified high-priority physical safety and security needs, such as cameras, locking doors, alarms, and communication device, These priorities will be used to develop a legislative ask for February session to fund some of these campus safety and security needs for the campuses.

The materials from the training will be available shortly on the OCCA website.

HECC Meeting Update

This week, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission held its full commission meeting. HECC introduced a series of legislative reports for approval on the following issues: House Bill 2973 [Affordable Baccalaureate Degrees \(staff recommendation\)](#), House Bill 2681 [Community College Course Placement \(staff recommendation\)](#), and Senate Bill 418 [Student Transitions and Oregon Promise Students Success \(staff recommendation\)](#). The Commission approved these reports for submission to the

legislature. HECC also presented a [new working draft of the strategic plan](#).

Student Success Oversight Committee Update

The last meeting of the SSOC was held on December 10, 2015. A main focus of the meeting was discussion of the updates to the SSOC Strategic Plan for 2016-19. Key areas for inclusion in the updated plan include the concept of advising across the educational spectrum (K12 through postsecondary), guided pathways, and meta majors. The plan has been sent to community college affinity groups (e.g. CIA, OPC, CSSA) with a request for prioritizing an initiative for all community colleges if there is no new funding, and another if there is new funding. This feedback will inform the final edits of the strategic plan.

SSOC members also discussed feedback on the HECC draft strategic plan 2016-2020. This feedback was sent to Ben Cannon and Dan Findley with an offer of assistance from the SSOC in crafting language for the plan. A phone meeting with Ben Cannon and SSOC representatives was held on December 21st. An updated version of the

HECC plan will be discussed at the upcoming SSOC meeting on Wednesday, January 27th.

Stay Informed: HECC News Clippings

The HECC is pleased to offer a regular email of news clips primarily focused on Oregon post-secondary education. You are invited to subscribe to this service [here](#).

Oregon's 17 community colleges are a vital part of the state's education system and serve roughly 350,000 students a year, or about 1 in 11 Oregonians.

The OCCA Digest updates members and the public about recent news affecting community colleges and efforts by the association to enhance student success and workforce development.

Do you have links to local stories or other items of interest? Please forward them to mjensen@occa17.com.

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