



NEWS DIGEST - January 29, 2016

CALENDAR OF
EVENTS

2016 Legislative Session Starts Monday

The 2016 February legislative session starts Monday, February 1. For this short session, issues headed for the November ballot such as minimum wage and a gross receipts tax proposal will drive a lot of the conversation in the capitol. For community colleges, public safety and security issues will be a major focus during the session. In particular, the legislature will consider a request for funding for Umpqua Community College to rebuild Snyder Hall and to address other longer-term effects caused by the event on October 1, 2015. The Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) has also requested a placeholder for \$10-15 million in capital funding for projects related to safety and security at all 17 community colleges.

With each legislator only having two bills for the short session, there will not be nearly the volume of community college-related bills as in a full session, but so far a variety of concepts have been proposed from tuition waivers for STEM majors, to support for college advising

February 8-11, 2016
ACCT Community
College National
Legislative Summit
Washington, D.C.

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

programs. Currently, there is a proposed bill (HB 4076) to allocate \$2.5 million of the \$7 million set aside last session in SB 418 for student success initiatives for Oregon Promise students. OCCA will also work this session to get the remainder of the \$7 million allocated to community colleges for additional student success initiatives.

Hearings scheduled for higher education-related bills next week:

House Committee on Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce

Monday, February 1

10:00 a.m., Hearing Room D

[HB 4019](#) – Clarifies duties of Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and completion. Excludes Oregon community college, public universities and Oregon Health and Science University from the definition of “school” in degree authorization provisions, rather than exempt institutions from these provisions

Wednesday, February 3

8:30 a.m., Hearing Room D

[HB 4021](#) – Requires State Treasurer to conduct study to assess viability of establishing student loan refinancing program with office of State Treasurer.

[HB 4076](#) – Directs Office of Student Access and Completion to provide support services to enable students to be successful in Oregon Promise program.

Senate Committee on Education

Monday, February 1 and Wednesday, February 3

3:00 p.m. Hearing Room B

[SB 1537](#) - Establishes criteria by which school district may establish post-graduate scholar program to receive and expend certain State

Chicago, IL

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School Fund moneys for certain students who have satisfied requirements for high school diploma.

Wednesday, February 3

3:00 p.m., Hearing Room B

[SB 1540](#) - Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct evaluation on providing tuition waiver for students at community colleges and public universities who are pursuing mathematics-related degrees.

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House Committee on Revenue

Wednesday, February 3

1:00 p.m., Hearing Room A

[HB 4131](#) - Requires financial institutions to develop data match agreements with Department of Revenue to identify assets held at financial institutions by delinquent debtors.

House Committee on Judiciary

Wednesday, February 3

3:00 p.m., Hearing Room 343

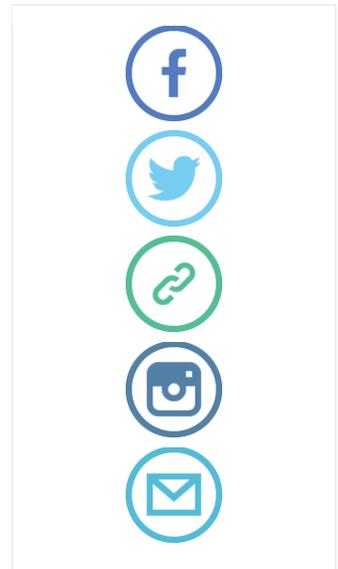
[HB 4142](#) - Prohibits person performing private security services to wear uniform or badge or utilize vehicle that would cause reasonable person to believe that private security professional is affiliated with public or private safety agency.

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Thursday, February 4

8:30 a.m., Hearing Room A

[SJR 201](#) - Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution repealing ad valorem property tax assessment provisions created by House Joint Resolution 85 (1997) (Ballot Measure 50 (1997)), requiring ad valorem



property taxes to be assessed on real market value of property and directing Legislative Assembly to provide exemption from ad valorem property taxes for owner-occupied principal dwellings and tax lots upon which dwellings are located.

OCCA Board Update

This week, the OCCA board met in Albany at Linn-Benton Community College. The board discussed a variety of topics, including student success initiatives and the upcoming legislative session. The board approved the OCCA legislative agenda for the February session and approved the OCCA Executive Director's 2015 evaluation and contract for 2016.

OCCA Services Survey

Based on the work of the OCCA strategic conversation committee, OCCA staff created a survey regarding current and potential services OCCA can provide to community colleges. OCCA has compiled a list of services, many which are currently provided and some that have been suggested by the strategic committee, the board, Oregon Presidents Council, and others. OCCA has attempted to capture a diverse assortment of new service possibilities in order to more fully understand the colleges' needs and desires. In order for OCCA to effectively determine the colleges' needs and desire for services, we are conducting a survey of all community college board members and administrators.

Your response to this survey is crucial to assisting OCCA in

identifying useful services moving forward. So, if you have not done so already, please take a few minutes to respond to the survey by following this

link: https://qtrial2015az1.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bsl2mU7WDFXmB4F

Student Success Oversight Committee Update

The Student Success Oversight Committee (SSOC) held its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2016. Meeting items included discussion of the updated HECC strategic plan and continued work on the 2016-19 Student Success Strategic Plan draft. The draft has been sent to the college affinity groups for feedback and prioritization of focus for initiatives in 2016-19. Comments are due back to the SSOC by mid-March. Rep. Mark Johnson was also a guest luncheon speaker and talked with the committee about a bill ([HB 4076](#)) he is putting forward in the upcoming February legislative session to provide funds to the community colleges to assist with student success efforts.

The next meeting for the SSOC is scheduled for Friday, April 15, 2016, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the OCCA office.

Change in Leadership at CCWD

This week, Dan Findley announced his resignation as Director of Community College and Workforce Development (CCWD). Starting Monday, February 1, Patrick Crane, the current Director of Research and Data at CCWD, will become the new Director.

Oregon Ranks #1 Nationally for Higher Education Funding Improvement

[Oregon led the nation in increasing state funding for higher education last year](#), according to a report conducted by the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University and the State Higher Education Executive Officers. In Oregon, state support for higher education increased 16.2 percent between 2015 and 2016, compared to just a 4.1 percent increase nationally.

In response to the report, Governor Brown and Higher Education coordinating Commission Executive Director Ben Cannon released the following statements:

Statement from Governor Kate Brown

“I am committed to supporting and empowering more Oregon students to be successful and complete their degrees,” Governor Brown said.

“I’m proud to have taken much-needed action to make a college education more affordable for Oregon students and families.”

Statement from Ben Cannon, Executive Director of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission

“The State of Oregon’s recent investment in public higher education represents an important turning point for our public universities and community colleges, following years of state disinvestment and enrollment increases. While the Grapevine analysis does not take into account state funding per student — where Oregon has ranked among the lowest nationally — this year’s funding increase will translate into to degrees, certificates, and promising futures for thousands more Oregon students. We commend the Oregon Legislature, the Governor, leaders of Oregon’s seven universities and 17 community colleges, our Commissioners, student leaders, and all our partners, for the

collaboration and commitment that made this happen, and we look forward to continuing our work to maintain this trajectory for Oregonians.”

Transfer Students and Success Rates

A [recently released report](#) examines the metrics for measuring transfer students and highlights some transfer student outcomes. Nationally, only 14 percent of all students (11 percent in Oregon) who entered a community college in 2007 transferred and earned a four-year degree within six years. Among those who transferred, on average, 42 percent (38 percent in Oregon) went on to receive a bachelor’s degree within six years of starting at a community college.

The report also looks at transfer rate differences and completion differences for low-income students and found that nationally, lower income students transferred to four-year institutions at a lower rate than did higher income students, 28 percent vs. 36 percent, respectively. Moreover, only 36 percent of low-income students who transfer, complete a bachelor’s degree in six years, while 44 percent of middle- and upper-income students receive their bachelor’s degree within that same timeframe.

The report was produced by the Community College Research Center, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, and the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. To read the full report, please click [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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