



NEWS DIGEST - January 8, 2016

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Legislative Days Next Week at the Capitol

The last Legislative Days prior to the start of February session will be taking place next week, January 13-15. The [schedule is as follows](#):

House Higher Education & Workforce Development

Wednesday, January 13 | 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Hearing Room D

- Work Session

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.

March 10, 2016

OCCA Board Meeting

- Introduction of Committee Bills
- Informational Meeting
 - Invited Testimony Only
 - Board Members' Perspective on University Governance
 - Pat Reser, Chair, Oregon State University Board of Trustees
 - Dave Nelson, Chair, Eastern Oregon University Board of Trustees
 - Ross Kari, Member, University of Oregon Board of Trustees
 - Swati Adarkar, Member, Portland State University Board of Trustees
 - Implementing System-Wide Student Supports to Ensure Success of Oregon Promise Students
 - Rep. Mark Johnson, District 52
 - Christie Plinski, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Mt. Hood Community College
 - Betty Krohn, Director, AVID for Higher Education
 - Andrea Henderson, Executive Director, Oregon Community College Association
 - Student, Mt. Hood Community College
 - Oregon Innovation Plan
 - Erin Flynn, Chair, Oregon Inc.
 - Kanth Gopalpur, Entrepreneur in Residence, Business Oregon
 - Heather Stafford, Assistant Director,

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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Senate Education

Thursday, January 14 | 2:00 p.m. – 5:00
p.m. | Hearing Room A

Committee schedule has not been released yet.

Stephanie Bobb
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Senate Workforce and General Government / House Business and Labor

Thursday, January 14 | 6:00 p.m. | Hearing Room F

Katie Archambault
Research and
Communications
Specialist
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- Informational Meeting
 - Receive public comment on proposals to raise statewide minimum wage rate and allow local authority to set minimum wage rate (LC 239 and LC 258).

Community College Grant Opportunities

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission, on behalf of the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, is seeking applications for competitively awarded grant funding. The grant is available to community colleges and community college foundations. The number of final grantees is yet-to-be-determine.

As part of [House Bill 3063](#), money is being made available to community colleges and community college foundations for programs/services that are designed to increase student enrollment, retention and degree and certificate completion, including counseling programs, college initiatives, advising services, and assistance in obtaining financial aid for underserved, low-income, and first-generation college students.

The deadline for applications is February 1, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Please direct any questions to Holley Oglesby, Procurement and Grants Officer at HECC. 503-947-2449 | holley.a.oglesby@HECC.oregon.gov

Remembering Henry Pete

[Henry Pete, founding president of Rogue Community College \(RCC\), passed away on December 19, 2015, in Wilsonville.](#)

In 1971, Henry became the founding president of RCC and laid the foundation for RCC to become the dynamic, efficient, and innovative college that is it today. Henry served as the college's president for nine years, retiring in 1980. In recognition for his

achievements and work with the college, the RCC Board of Education awarded Henry with the special title of president emeritus in 2003.

After Henry's retirement from RCC in 1980, he moved with his wife, Jane, to the Charbonneau community in Wilsonville, where the couple enjoyed an active retirement for many years.

To watch an interview with Henry discussing his time at RCC and his accomplishments in the community college sector, please click [here](#).

Professional Development Conference Opportunity: “Redesigning America’s Community Colleges”

The [Washington State Community and Technical College Professional Development Association](#) has invited the Oregon community college system to attend their one day professional development conference on March 4. The conference will be centered on the book “Redesigning America’s Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success.” The author of the book, Thomas Bailey, will be the keynote for the conference.

The conference will be held at the Murano Hotel in Tacoma. Registration is \$175 for attendees, and for every 5 registrations from the same institution, the sixth one is free!

For more information, and to register for the conference, please visit www.CTCleads.org or contact Executive Director Kati Hays chays@columbiabasin.edu

Governor Brown Removes Employment Department Director

This week, [Governor Kate Brown announced the removal of Oregon Employment Department Director](#), Lisa Nisenfeld. Governor Brown's removal of Nisenfeld comes after the release of a [state audit](#) that raises concerns about security lapses and issues pertaining to unemployment benefit claims and tax returns tied to the department's aging computer systems.

Governor Brown placed Kay Erickson, the state's budget manager, as the Employment Department's acting director until the Governor's office can find a permanent replacement. Erickson's appointment "is effective immediately".

Impact of Student Debt on Major Life Decisions

In a recent report by [American Student Assistance](#), *Life Delayed: The Impact of Student Debt on the Daily Lives of Young Americans*, survey results found that many American students are delaying major life decisions due to their student debt. Decisions such as buying a home, getting married, having children, saving for retirement, and entering a desired career field are being impacted by their student debt.

Some highlights from the study include:

- 68% of respondents indicated that their current debt has had a considerable impact or was the deciding factor in their decision to further their education. Many indicated that this was due to a fear of having to accrue more debt in order to finance additional education.
- Despite lower debt amount, community college borrowers were most likely to find it difficult to make loan payments each month. 49% of community college respondents said it is difficult or very difficult to make student loan payments.
- Over one-third of all borrowers, indicated that student debt impacts their ability to buy daily

necessities; community college respondents had a slightly higher likelihood of identifying this as an issue.

- 62% of respondents said they have put off saving for retirement or making other investments.

According to the report, “If student loan borrowers continue to sit on the sidelines and delay diving into economic commitments, the perilous position of the U.S. economy will continue to plod cautiously along rather than prosper with the help of a new generation of well-educated consumers.”

OSAC Survey: Input on Student Outreach

Oregon’s top financial aid office is seeking input from college financial aid professionals on the agency’s effort to reach out to prospective students.

The Oregon Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) provides scholarships, mentoring, grants, and financial aid for all Oregonians to support their postsecondary education. OSAC is requesting input on providing outreach to underrepresented students to support them as they enter and complete college. The information gathered from this survey will help OSAC

reach out to students who most need support to attend and complete higher education.

The survey is administrated by Education Northwest, and the answer provided will be confidential. If you have questions about the survey, or have additional comments to help OSAC reach out to students, please contact [Jason Greenberg Motamedi](#) at 800-547-6339, extension 493.

[Complete the OSAC outreach survey here.](#)

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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