



NEWS DIGEST - February 21, 2016

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2016 Legislative Session: Week 3 Overview

The Oregon Legislature sent a three-tiered minimum wage to Governor Kate Brown this week concluding one of the major goals of the Democratic lead legislature.

The proposal would begin raising the current \$9.25 an hour minimum in July to \$14.75 inside Portland's Urban Growth Boundary, \$13.50 in a middle tier that includes Eugene and Bend, and \$12.50 in sparsely populated "frontier" areas.

Governor Kate Brown has indicated she will sign the measure.

The third week of the five-week session was relatively quiet as many bills that had passed in one chamber were

**March 10, 2016**  
OCCA Board Meeting  
Portland Community  
College - Sylvania  
Campus, Portland

**March 11, 2016**  
OPC Meeting  
Portland Community  
College - Sylvania  
Campus, Portland

**April 9-12, 2016**  
AACC Annual  
Convention  
Chicago, IL

**April 20, 2016**  
AOAT Student Scholar  
Event  
Salem Convention  
Center

being received and assigned by the other legislative chamber.

One of the bills related to higher education moving through the process this week was SB 1540, which would direct the Higher Education Coordination Commission to conduct a study to determine the best method of increasing the number of mathematics majors at Oregon universities. That bill passed the Senate earlier in the week and received a hearing in the House Higher Education and Innovation Committee on Friday.

Hearings scheduled for next week:

### **Monday, February 22, 2016**

10:30 a.m. – House Floor

[SB 1540](#): Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission, in consultation with Oregon post-secondary institutions of education, to conduct study to determine best method of increasing number of mathematics majors at Oregon universities.

1:00 p.m. – Hearing Room F

Work session; [HB 4075](#): Replaces School Safety Hotline established by Department of Justice with statewide tip line established by Department of State Police for anonymous reporting of information concerning threats to student safety.

3:00 p.m. – Hearing Room B

Public hearing and possible work session; [HB 4021](#): Requires State Treasurer and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct study to explore approaches for lowering interest rates on student loans for

**April 20-21, 2016**  
OPC Meeting  
OCCA Office, Salem

#### OCCA STAFF

Andrea Henderson  
Executive Director  
[andrea@occa17.com](mailto:andrea@occa17.com)

John Wykoff  
Legislative Director  
[jwykoff@occa17.com](mailto:jwykoff@occa17.com)

Karen Smith  
General Counsel  
[ksmith@occa17.com](mailto:ksmith@occa17.com)

Megan Jensen  
Deputy Director of  
Operations  
[mjensen@occa17.com](mailto:mjensen@occa17.com)

Elizabeth Cox-Brand  
Student Success  
and Assessment  
Director  
[elizabeth@occa17.com](mailto:elizabeth@occa17.com)

Katie Archambault  
Research and  
Communications  
Specialist  
[katie@occa17.com](mailto:katie@occa17.com)



students in Oregon.

3:00 p.m. – H-170

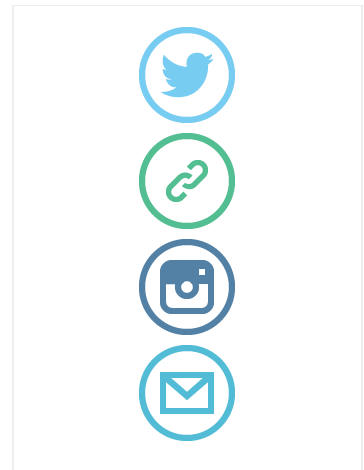
Public hearing and possible work session; [HB 4131](#):

Requires financial institutions to participate in data match system established by Department of Revenue to identify assets held at financial institutions by delinquent debtors.

### **Tuesday, February 23, 2016**

10:30 a.m. – House Floor

[SB 1543](#): Provides that certain statutory provisions relating to eligibility of individuals who perform certain services for educational institutions for unemployment insurance benefits during period between two successive academic years or terms or established and customary vacation period or holiday recess do not apply to claim filed by individual who voluntarily left work with good cause.



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## **Statewide Convening on Guided Pathways**

On Friday, community college faculty, administrators, presidents, and staff from across the state met at Lane Community College to discuss the concept of “guided pathways to success”. Davis Jenkins, a senior research associate at Community College Research Center and author of *Redesigning America’s Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success*, kicked off the event with a presentation on his research related to innovative approaches to improving student success outcomes, including guided pathways to success.

The idea behind the guided pathways approach is straightforward: “[College students are more likely to complete](#) a degree in a timely fashion if they choose a program and develop an academic plan early on, have a clear road map of the courses they need to take to complete a credential, and receive guidance and support to help them stay on plan.”

After Davis Jenkins’ presentation, Elizabeth Cox Brand, Director of Student Success and Assessment at OCCA, moderated a panel of community college faculty and presidents on the topic of guided pathways. The panel included Janeen Hull, faculty from Portland Community College, Caroline Lundquist, faculty from Lane Community College, and Lisa Avery, president of Portland Community College – Sylvania Campus.

After lunch, participants broke in to campus teams to talk about how they could begin implementing guided pathways on their campuses.

This well-attended event spoke to the level of commitment community colleges across the state have in finding ways to help students succeed and complete a post-secondary credential.

For more information on the guided pathways to success, please click [here](#).



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*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](mailto:mjensen@occa17.com).*

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