



NEWS DIGEST - March 14, 2016

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCCA Board Meeting Update

The OCCA Board met this week to discuss a host of issues and debrief about the 2016 legislative session and to begin planning for the next session in 2017.

The Board heard a presentation from Peter Tromba, Research and Policy Director for the Chief Education Office, about Oregon's poverty task force and some of their initial results. Three main findings are that rural areas in Oregon have more students and families navigating poverty, students of color are more likely to be navigating poverty, and poverty is most intense in rural areas and most intergenerational in families of color. Given these findings, there will be more focused work done in the future to try and address these issues.

The OCCA Board also reviewed OCCA's budget for next year and heard the slate of nominations for OCCA's next executive committee. Both of these items will be on the May board meeting agenda for final approval.

April 9-12, 2016

AACC Annual
Convention
Chicago, IL

April 20, 2016

AOAT Student
Scholar Event
Salem Convention
Center

April 20-21, 2016

OPC Meeting
OCCA Office, Salem

May 3, 2016

AOAT Recognition
Program
Salem Convention
Center

OCCA STAFF

Nominations for 2016-17 OCCA Executive Committee:

President – Dave Jensen, current OCCA board vice chair and board member at Klamath Community College

Community College since 2009.

Vice-President – Denise Frisbee, current OCCA member at large and board member at Portland Community College

Community College since 2005.

Secretary – Debbie Derr, president of Mt. Hood Community College since 2013.

Treasurer – Birgitte Ryslinge, president of Oregon Coast Community College since 2014

Member at Large – Dave Hunt, board member at Clackamas Community College since 2015.

Member at Large – Tessa Scheller, board member at Clatsop Community College since 2010.

Immediate Past President – Marcia Jensen, board member at Southwestern Oregon Community College since 2000.

Andrea Henderson
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John Wykoff
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Oregon Promise Update

On the March 1st deadline, [almost a third of Oregon's public high school seniors had applied](#) for the "Oregon Promise" grant program. Maximum grant amount awarded will be equal to full-time community college tuition with a minimum amount of \$1,000.

[To be eligible](#), a student need apply by March 1st, graduate high school or earn a GED within six months of enrolling in community college, and have a

cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.5, and be an Oregon resident for 12 months before starting college.

Applications from 16,502 students are now being reviewed by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission to make sure that students who applied meet all of the eligibility requirements. Recipients of the “Oregon Promise” grant in this inaugural year will need enroll in community college within six months.

Applicants who meet eligibility requirements will be notified in early April; actual awarding notification will not take place until students show up for school in the fall and the award is posted to their student accounts.

An exception to the eligibility notifications in April will be for those students who were just under a 2.5 cumulative GPA at the end of seventh semester, or those who indicated they will be taking their final GED tests after March 1st. These groups will receive notification after either the eighth semester transcript is received and shows a 2.5 cumulative GPA was achieved (due by July 1st), or final GED test scores are submitted (due by August 1st).

Statewide Placement Meeting

Teams of faculty and staff from the 17 community colleges met in Salem on Friday, March 4th, for the final meeting to discuss potential changes to placement processes. Participants continued to discuss the use of multiple measures in the placement process, what

items should be part of the list of multiple measures (e.g. GED score, high school GPA), as well as the idea of directed self-placement. A summary highlighting the recommendations from the work group will be available by early April.

Grant Opportunities

Oregon Department Education recently released the Oregon Accelerated College Credit Program Grant. To view the RFP, please click [here](#).

The grant will provide up to \$40,000 for partnerships between Oregon public school districts, Oregon Education Service Districts, Regional Consortium, and/or Oregon public postsecondary institutions to encourage, support, and facilitate development and implementation of Accelerated College Credit opportunities for at-risk students to create a college-going college for these students.

Funds can be used for training, support materials for students, teachers, and institutions. Preference will be given to regions with high poverty rates, large historically underrepresented students, and did not already receive funding from the Regional Promise grant.

If you have questions related to the grant, please email acceleratedlearning@oregonlearning.org

Moreover, there was an announcement about an upcoming Request for Application (RFA) for STEM

programs (linked to [here](#)) back in December. Cheryl Myers, Chief of Staff at the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, announced last week that an RFA will go out shortly, slightly later than the anticipated December release date.

Save the Date: All Oregon Academic Team Luncheon

The 2016 All Oregon Academic Team Recognition Program will be held May 3, 2016 at the Salem Convention Center. Please save the date and join us in celebrating the achievements of our 2016 All Oregon Academic Team recipients.

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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