



OCCA DIGEST - May 27, 2016

OCCA STAFF

Legislative Days Overview

The Oregon Legislature met for interim hearings this week examining a variety of topics likely to come up in the 2017 legislative session. Legislators also use interim hearing to receive updates on topics they addressed in the previous session.

Andrea Henderson, Executive Director of OCCA, and Patrick Crane, Director of the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (OCCWD), presented information to the House Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Committee on how colleges are spending money related to [HB 4076](#) i.e. first-year experiences for incoming Oregon Promise students. Some colleges are looking into contracting with [AVID](#), while other schools plan to use the funds for other first-year experience initiatives.

Andrea Henderson also presented information to the Legislative Audit Committee on the Secretary of State's audit on community college completion rates.

OCCA also presented testimony to a joint meeting of the

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House and Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee updating the committee on progress to include veterans in colleges' priority registration system. The report on [HB 2645](#) also included representatives from Oregon State University and the University of Oregon discussing their progress around this legislation.

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Legislators voiced concern that programs being enacted were not as robust for veterans as legislators had hoped. Rep. Brad Witt, who sponsored the bill, also told the committee that he realized the process of registration and the solution were more complicated than the committee had originally realized.

HECC Funding and Achievement Subcommittee Update

This week, Patrick Crane, Director of the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, gave a presentation information on the [Community College Support Fund ask](#) and the colleges' [capital construction requests](#) for the upcoming 2017-19 Legislative Session.

Oregon #1 for Improvement in FAFSA Completion

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) announced that over the last year, Oregon has seen the nation's highest percent increase in high school seniors completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

(FAFSA).

As of the end of April 2016, approximately 8.8 percent more Oregon high school seniors had completed a FAFSA than at the same point last year. This increase is particularly notable given that the number of FAFSA completions dropped 3.2 percent nationally over this same period. Oregon is one of just four states to make improvements in FAFSA completion, which is a crucial indicator of college access.

Oregon's improvement in this category correspond with the launch of the Oregon Promise program, which requires students submit a FAFSA as a component of the grant application process. FAFSA completions among Oregon Promise applicants likely contributed to this year's marked improvement.

In conjunction with a rise in FAFSA completions due to Oregon Promise applicants, Oregon's Office of Student Access and Completion has also proactively increased outreach efforts. One such effort that has garnered national attention for fostering improvements in FAFSA completion among high school seniors is the innovative and growing FAFSA Plus+ initiative.

While Oregon saw the nation's largest improvement in the number of high school seniors who completed the FAFSA, [the state's overall completion rate remain slightly below the national average](#), highlighting the importance of continuing statewide outreach efforts.

Developmental Education Newsletter

The latest newsletter provides an update on the terrific work Oregon's community colleges are doing around developmental education redesign. This edition highlights the coaching that has been offered over this academic year plus news about colleges who have volunteered to implement co-requisite writing courses in 2016-17. To view the newsletter, please click [here](#).

National college campus security summit to take place in Portland, Oregon

ACCT will hold a national college campus security summit in Portland, Oregon on June 13-14, 2016.

To view the draft agenda, please click [here](#).

*Each Oregon community college will receive **one free** registration!*

[REGISTER HERE!](#)



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What?

This summit is designed to assist community college board members, presidents and their leadership teams, and others in safeguarding the college while continuing on the path of improving student success and completion.

The one and half day summit will examine the following: preparing for a disaster, reacting to and implementing plans during a disaster, and recovery efforts, both short-term and long-term – all the while helping the college to stay committed to student success, completion, and equity.

The summit will also bring together community colleges' leadership teams to: review policies and systems that should be in place, promote a statewide approach to security preparedness whereby institutions proactively agree to provide assistance to other institutions within their state or region, and participate in disaster learning scenarios to teach effective strategies for managing such events.

Who should participate?

- Trustees
- Presidents
- Board Support Staff
- Senior Leadership Team
- Public Information Officers
- Safety/Security Officers
- State Association Staff

Please bring a copy of your Institutional Readiness Plan, if you have one

Where?

The summit will take place at the [Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront](#).

To receive the ACCT discounted hotel room rate of only \$169 per night, please click [here](#). The deadline to reserve your hotel room is Friday, May 27.

When?

Monday, June 13 and Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Registration

To register, please click [here](#).

ACCT is giving ONE FREE registration per Oregon college.

To receive the free registration code, send an email to

csimons@acct.org.

Fees:

ACCT Member – Individual: \$300

ACCT Member – Team (up to 5 people from a college):

\$1000

Non-ACCT Member – Individual: \$500

Non-ACCT Member – Team (up to 5 people from a college):

\$1500

If you have any questions about the event, please contact

Christina Simons, Education Events Specialist at ACCT:

csimons@acct.org or 202-775-4462

Oregon's 17 community colleges are a vital part of the state's education system and serve roughly 313,000 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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