



OCCA DIGEST - June 24, 2016

OCCA STAFF

National Summit on Safeguarding College Campuses

Last week, ACCT held a national college campus security and safety summit in Portland, Oregon. The two-day summit explored how colleges can respond to and become resilient after a disaster on campus. Over 200 community college trustees, presidents, and staff from around the nation participated in the event.

Michael J. Mulhare, Director of the Office of Emergency Management at Virginia Tech, addressed the summit on how to cultivate a culture of preparedness on campus and the importance of developing a comprehensive crisis emergency plan. Participants also learned about the disaster cycle and organizational resilience in the wake of a disaster from Andre Le Duc, Associate Vice President and Chief Resilience Officer at the University of Oregon. Mr. Le Duc also provided an overview of roles, responsibilities, and resources for colleges at the local, district, and state levels. Richard Wilson, Senior Consultant at SIGMA Threat Management Associates talked about how to best mitigate institutional risk while managing threats on campus. Building on that, Mr. Wilson, joined by Julianne Repman, Director of School Safety for High Desert ESD, spoke about the optimal

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crisis response following a disaster on campus.

The program also explored an individual's resilience following a crisis situation. Michael Mulhare spoke about how an individual responds to and survives a crisis. Vanessa Becker, Board Chair at Umpqua Community College, spoke about trauma and how to best manage it, sharing examples from both her professional career and her role as Board Chair at Umpqua Community College following the October 1st event.

A panel composed of Kathryn Jeffery, President of Santa Monica College, Walt Nolte, Interim President of Umpqua Community College, Mary Spilde, President of Lane Community College, and Vanessa Becker, shared emergency planning insights for community colleges gained from experience.

In addition to hearing from the aforementioned speakers, participants took part in a crisis simulation exercise where each group had to work through a disaster situation from start to finish. Along the way, updates and challenges were presented to the teams that they had to react to and address in their crisis response plans.

Conference PowerPoint presentations and material can be found [here](#).

Oregon Academic Advising Conference

Over 300 participants, representing community colleges, public and private universities, gathered

for the Oregon Academic Advising Conference at Western Oregon University this week. This was the first conference on academic advising held in Oregon since 2002. The event was a sharing of research and best practices along with an opportunity for advising staff from across Oregon postsecondary institutions to meet and make new connections.

Next is for Oregon to revive its chapter of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) and engage advising professionals from across the state. For more information about the conference, please click [here](#).

Clatsop Community College Selects New President

[Clatsop Community College Board of Directors has selected Christopher Breitmeyer](#) as the new president of the college. Mr. Breitmeyer has been the vice president for academic and student affairs at St. Charles Community College in St. Louis since 2012, and the college's dean of math, science, and healthy since 2008.

The hiring of Mr. Breitmeyer ends a president search that began last summer to replace Lawrence Galizio, who left the college to be president and CEO of the Community College League of California. Gerald Hamilton will continue serving as interim president of the college until Mr. Breitmeyer starts on July 1, 2016.

Chemeketa Community College Receives Veteran Service Award

[Chemeketa Community College was one of just five community colleges nationwide to receive the Kohlberg Prize from the Kisco Foundation](#) in 2015 to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of student veterans enrolled in community college. The Kohlberg Prize is a six-month planning grant to enhance services for veterans by connecting them to broader college reform initiatives.

For many new veterans, education is an important component in the transition back to civilian life and employment. Attending college allows veterans to upgrade existing skills or gain new skills in order to transition to a new career. Approximately 40 percent of student veterans attend community colleges.

In addition to Chemeketa Community College, the other four grantees committed to serving student veterans and are either engaged or considering broader institutional reforms include: Chabot College (Hayward, CA), Las Positas College (Livermore, CA), Suffolk County Community College (Selden, NY), and Community College of Baltimore County (Baltimore, MD).

The experience of these colleges to date and their plans for using grant funds were described in their proposal narratives. The Community College Research Center analyzed the proposal narratives to understand the community colleges' perceptions of veteran students' strengths and challenges, their current delivery of supports and suggestion for improvement, and the relationship between their veteran services and broader reform effort. [In May, CCRC released a](#)

[report](#) that discusses insights gleaned from analysis about what community college personnel believe are key ways to improve support for veteran students.

Insight 1: Student veterans need a variety of supports.

Insight 2: Student veterans possess strengths that can support learning and college success.

Insight 3: Colleges provide four types of services to student veterans.

Insight 4: Veteran services at colleges are insufficiently coordinated.

Kohlberg Prize dollars enable colleges to take an important first step in improving veteran supports and ultimately college completion among student veterans. However, foundation support is not scalable or sustainable, and grantee colleges make it clear there are policy barriers at the state and federal level that make it difficult to sustain such holistic and personalized support to veterans outside of private or foundation funding. The CCRC report concludes by offering considerations for policy change in terms of federal regulations, college funding, and institutional change:

1. Support funding for additional staff.
2. Reduce compliance demands to free up time.
3. Integrate veteran students into emerging student support technology.
4. Connect GI Bill requirements with the Guided

Pathways movement.

Summer Newsletter

For the summer months, OCCA Digest will move to being sent out every other week.

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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