



OCCA DIGEST - July 9, 2016

OCCA STAFF

## Announcing New Student Success Center

Oregon Community College Association is proud to announce the launch of the Oregon Student Success Center, which will serve as a hub of support for initiatives around the state aimed at improving college completion rates and promoting student success.

The Success Center's creation is funded by generous grants from the [Ford Family Foundation](#) and the [Oregon Community Foundation](#). The Center will receive technical assistance provided by [Jobs for the Future](#). Oregon's educational system, guided by 40-40-20, is in the midst of a major effort aimed at significantly increasing the number of students who successfully complete their educational and career goals. The Success Center will be a key part of this objective by providing support to colleges' ongoing success and completion efforts. This is an exciting opportunity to advance and expand student success initiatives at community colleges throughout Oregon.

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One of the consequences in the shift in community college priorities from access to success has been the development of a myriad of student success initiatives, which has caused confusion and fatigue. The [Oregon Student Success Center joins 12 other student success centers around the country](#) aimed at providing a vision for increasing student success and creating a shared venue for support, research, collaboration, policy development, program design, and implementation.

One of the main functions of the Success Center will be to regularly convene community college leaders, administrators, faculty, staff, and stakeholders from around the state to support, advance, and scale-up existing and future student success initiatives.

The Student Success Center will be housed under the broad OCCA structure, but will operate independently. Elizabeth Cox Brand, OCCA's Director of Student Success and Achievement will serve as the Center's Executive Director.

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## **Executive Director of Public Universities Council of Presidents Announced**

This week, it was announced that Higher Education Coordinating Commission's (HECC) Deputy Director for Legislative and Policy Affairs, Dana Richardson, will take on the role of Executive Director for the Oregon Public Universities Council of Presidents (OPUCP), a new

council in Oregon higher education.

For over two years, Ms. Richardson served as HECC's primary liaison to the Legislature and worked as a champion of Oregon higher education, the students, and communities the institutions serve.

Ms. Richardson will finish her role at HECC in mid-August and transition into her Executive Director position at OPUCP. OCCA looks forward to continuing to work with Ms. Richardson in her new role.

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## National Forum in Education Policy

The [Education Commission of the States \(ECS\) held its annual National Forum in Education Policy](#) last week focusing on several issues affecting community colleges. Held in Washington D.C. this year, the event brings together education policy leaders from across all states to explore early learning through postsecondary education policy issues.

Topics discussed at the forum included dual enrollment, free community college programs, supporting near-completers as well as several K-12 related topics such as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. ESSA replaced the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002.

Participants from Oregon included Rep. Mark Johnson, representatives from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, as well as legislative staff members. John

Wykoff, OCCA Deputy Director, also attended the event.

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## **Governance Institute for Student Success Recap**

Last week, community college board members, presidents, administrators, and staff attended the 2016 Governance Institute for Students Success (GISS) in Bend, OR organized by the Association of Community College Trustees.

The event was intended to follow up on the work that began two years ago to help community college boards truly focus on those efforts we know help our students succeed and achieve.

Topics at the training included developmental education redesign, placement, equity, guided pathways, and the Voluntary Framework of Accountability.

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## **Chemeketa Community College Pell Grant Pilot**

[Chemeketa Community College was one of 67 colleges and universities chosen nationwide](#) to participate in a pilot program that will offer Pell Grants to incarcerated students.

The program, [Second Chance Pell](#), will allow incarcerated individuals who otherwise meet Title IV eligibility requirements and are eligible for release to access to Pell Grants to pursue postsecondary education and training.

[In 1994, Congress amended the Higher Education Act to eliminate Pell Grant eligibility for students in state and federal penal institutions.](#) It has been estimated that approximately 95 percent of prisoners will be released back to their communities at some point. Higher education and job training can help incarcerated individual get jobs, support their family, and turn their lives around post release. [A 2013 RAND study](#) found that inmates who participate in correctional education programs are 43 percent less likely to return to prison compared to inmates who do not.

[Chemeketa Community College currently offers the only complete college degree program for incarcerated individuals in Oregon](#), serving over 175 students at two prisons. Oregon's Criminal Justice Commission reports that felons' recidivism rate is 40 percent within three years of their initial release. The likelihood of an inmate who graduates from Chemeketa while incarcerated to commit another crime upon release, is only 6 percent.

The Second Chance Pell pilot program is geared toward prisoners likely to be released within the next five years. Inmates who receive Pell Grants through this program can only be used to pay for tuition, fees, books, and supplies required by an individual's education program. This program will not affect the chances of other

prospective students to receive Pell Grants.

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

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