



OCCA DIGEST - August 22, 2016

OCCA STAFF

Higher Education Coordinating Commission Meeting Overview

[At the full Higher Education Coordinating Commission \(HECC\) meeting](#) on August 11, commissioners and invited guests, including Cam Preus (president, Blue Mountain Community College) and Andrea Henderson (Executive Director, OCCA), students, and university presidents engaged in a conversation about the structure, policy work, and future of HECC.

[Guided by Dennis Jones from NCHEMS](#), the conversation was based on an [Education Commission for the States report](#) by Aims McGinniss and considered key questions posed by HECC Executive Director Ben Cannon. Preus and Henderson focused their remarks on the need for collaboration and partnership between HECC and the community colleges to move a proactive agenda forward.

In addition, HECC approved the final [HB 2681](#) report, which makes recommendations for multiple measures to be used for placement in community colleges. A copy off the report can be found [here](#).

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Funding and Achievement

Subcommittee Meeting Recap

At the Funding and Achievement Subcommittee meeting on August 10, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) forwarded a \$795 million [community college support fund budget request](#) to Governor Brown for her consideration. This budget request represents a 44 percent increase over the 2015 legislative appropriation of \$550 million. HECC also recommended a \$943 [million budget for the state universities](#), a 42 percent increase, as well as a \$60 million increase for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, which is projected to serve an additional 31,000 students.

HECC also forwarded a \$346 million capital needs budget, including \$86 million in article 11-G bonding for 13 colleges. Also submitted was a \$244 million deferred maintenance request as well as a \$15 million placeholder for campus safety and security.

Other budget recommendations include \$40 million to continue Oregon Promise, as well as an additional \$4 million to create a “free to finish” program targeted at those who have left college, but are close to finishing a degree.

Other [policy option packages](#) (POPs) include \$1 million for the Integrated Post-Secondary Data System, \$1.69 million for increased staffing in HECC, \$500,000 for a statewide license for a Transfer Equivalency System (TES), expansion of Aspire, and \$2 million for Oregon National Guard Tuition assistance.

For a full overview of the agency requested budget, please click [here](#).

The entire budget recommendation will be considered by Governor Brown for inclusion in her Governor's budget, which will be released December 1.

Annual Achieving the Dream Summer Summit Held

Each year, the community colleges who are part of the Achieving the Dream (AtD) Rural Consortium gather to hold a summer summit. This year's summit focused on the topic of equity and was held on August 17th at the Southern Oregon Wine Institute on the Umpqua Community College campus.

Teams from five community colleges were led by Joshua Todd, Executive Director, Campus Compact Oregon, through a series of exercises to develop a college process for gap analysis of their colleges' current environment and design practical next steps for action.

If you would like materials from the event or have questions, please contact Elizabeth Cox Brand at elizabeth@occa17.com.

Student Success Oversight Committee Meeting Overview

The Oregon community college Student Success Oversight Committee (SSOC) held its regular summer meeting on August 18th at the Chemeketa Center for Business and Industry. Two special guests from Jobs for the Future, Chris Baldwin and David Alstadt, gave a

presentation to the committee reviewing the national student success center network, which Oregon joined in July 2016.

Following the presentation, there was conversation regarding the role of the SSOC as an advisory board to the new Oregon Student Success Center (Center) as well as discussion regarding the other 12 state success centers, their successes, challenges, and lessons learned.

Key next steps agreed to were that the full SSOC will continue to meet quarterly but that a smaller steering committee of stakeholders would be convened monthly to assist with the guidance of the Center and that a few members of the SSOC would work with Center Executive Director, Elizabeth Cox Brand, to develop a communication piece about the Center for distribution this fall to community colleges and other stakeholders. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Cox Brand at elizabeth@occa17.com.

OCCIRS Summer Meeting Overview

On August 10-11, the Oregon Community College Council of Institutional Researchers (OCCIRS) met in Astoria, Oregon at Clatsop Community College for their summer meeting.

The group discussed a variety of topics including state-level changes to data governance, Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA), transferability of credits, credit for prior learning, and Oregon Promise data collection. The

group also talked about current data collection challenges and opportunities for future research.

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 katie@occa17.com.

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