



October 14, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Casey White-Zollman, Communications Director
casey@occa17.com | 503-502-5642

Oregon's community colleges to support inclusive career advancement program through grant with OR Vocational Rehabilitation

PORTLAND, Ore. – Portland Community College (PCC) will partner with Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) to coordinate a statewide Inclusive Career Advancement Program (ICAP) with all 17 community colleges in the state, thanks to an \$18.2 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration. The Disability Innovation Fund Grant was awarded to Oregon VR and will serve 500 people with disabilities in marginalized communities by braiding together career readiness and workforce development partners across the state and Oregon's community colleges.

The ICAP project will leverage Oregon's current statewide network of career pathway services to advance educational and economic equity for people with disabilities, with intentional outreach and inclusion of marginalized communities. ICAP will braid the supports and services of VR, Self-Sufficiency Programs, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act workforce partners, Oregon Commission for the Blind (OCB) with the three interrelated and foundational initiatives of Oregon's 17 community colleges. These programs include: Career Pathways, SNAP Training & Employment Program, and Pathways To Opportunities.

PCC will take a leadership role in the statewide coordination of services and the facilitation of Communities of Practice that will advance the efforts of this grant initiative.

Cornell University will evaluate the project's implementation and performance to determine efficacy of ICAP practices and strategies. These findings will be shared nationally to expand access and opportunities for people with disabilities to enter and be supported in their career goals.

###

Information in this press release was provided by Oregon Department of Human Services.