



October 8, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

OCCA hires Morgan Cowling as next Executive Director

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) Board of Directors earlier today announced the hiring of Morgan Cowling as its next Executive Director. Cowling will begin her new role on January 1, 2022, following the retirement of current Executive Director Dr. Cam Preus in December.

“I’m looking forward to joining the OCCA team and working on behalf of the 17 Oregon community college presidents and local boards to advance student success,” Cowling said.

Cowling was selected from a pool of applicants from across the country. OCCA enlisted staff, elected community college board members and presidents to serve on a search committee to make a hiring recommendation to the OCCA Board.

Cowling comes to OCCA from the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO), where she has served as the Executive Director and advocated on behalf of local public health departments for 11 years. Before working for CLHO, Cowling was the Health and Human Services Policy Manager at the Association of Oregon Counties and advocated in the Oregon Legislature on behalf of county commissioners in the areas of mental health, public health, seniors, children and families. Cowling also spent two years as Legislative Director for the Oregon Student Association.

“The OCCA Board is thrilled to have someone with Morgan’s extensive experience in advocacy join the OCCA and represent our community colleges,” said Stephen Crow, president of the OCCA Board of Directors and a Board of Education member at Treasure Valley Community College. “We look forward to working with her as she takes OCCA into its next chapter.”

Cowling, who is a native Oregonian, earned a Bachelor of Science at the University of Oregon and a Master of Public Administration from New York University. She’s an avid Oregon Ducks fan, and when she’s not working or watching college football, Cowling can be found playing tennis and hanging out with her husband, son and dog.

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