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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCCA announces 2022 All-Oregon Academic Team

SALEM, Ore. – Oregon Community College Association is honored to announce the selection of 41 members from community colleges across the state to the 2022 All-Oregon Academic Team (AOAT). These outstanding student scholars are selected for their academic excellence, leadership, and community service, and many are members of Phi Theta Kappa, the nation’s community college honor society.

“I’d like to congratulate these outstanding student scholars for their achievements and the impending completion of their community college degrees,” said OCCA Executive Director Morgan Cowling. “As some of our very best and brightest, these students represent hope for a strong future in Oregon.”

Each year, Phi Theta Kappa, community college presidents, and community college state associations like OCCA sponsor All-State Community College Academic Team ceremonies in 37 participating states. OCCA will host the All-Oregon Academic Team Luncheon April 15 at Sunriver Resort in Sunriver, Ore., to honor AOAT students and their families. This year’s luncheon will be the first in-person since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The AOAT luncheon’s keynote speaker is Senator Bill Hansell (R-Athena), OCCA’s 2022 Howard Cherry Award winner for Outstanding Community College Advocate.

In addition, the OCCA Member Services Committee selects several students from the 41 outstanding scholars to serve as speakers at the recognition luncheon. This year’s speakers include Sara Birman from Oregon Coast Community College, Sonya Dzierewienko from Mt. Hood Community College, and Timothy Kazzee from Umpqua Community College.

“Their stories are powerful and inspiring, and OCCA would like to thank these students for having the courage to share them with everyone at the luncheon,” Cowling said.

In addition, two AOAT students were designated as Coca-Cola New Century Scholars for earning the highest All-USA Academic Team application score for Oregon: Heifara Wheeler from Portland Community College was named a New Century Transfer Scholar, and Megan Capp from Rogue Community College was named a New Century Workforce Scholar.

Additionally, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team each year, which recognizes high-achieving students who demonstrate academic excellence and intellectual rigor combined with leadership and service that extends their education beyond the classroom to benefit society. Nationally, 50 students are selected as Silver Scholars and receive \$1,250 scholarships, and 50 students nationally are selected as Bronze Scholars and receive \$1,000 scholarships. Devin Ireland of Rogue Community College was named a 2022 Bronze Scholar.



Please see the attached document for a full list of the 41 outstanding student scholars selected to the All-Oregon Academic Team.

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