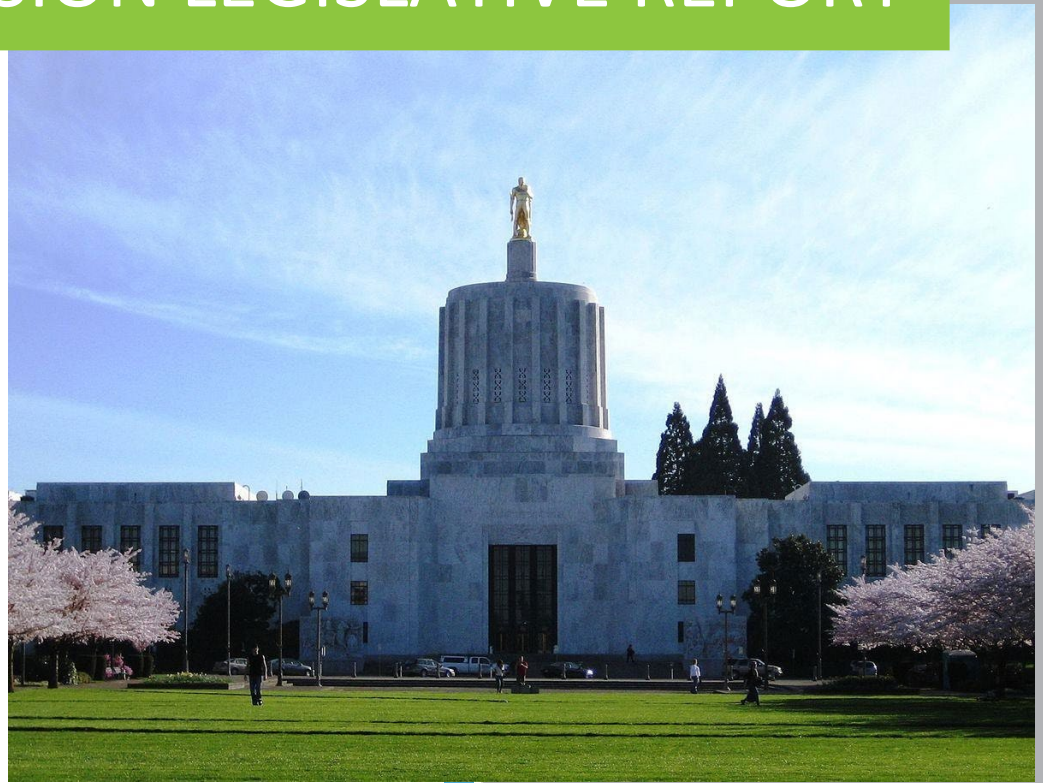


2023

# END OF SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT



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## 2023 Legislative Session Highlights

### Session Overview

The 2023 Legislative Assembly concluded its work June 25, the last day constitutionally allowable, after a productive but tumultuous session that will likely be remembered for the longest walkout in state history carried out by nine Senate Republicans and one Independent senator. Oregon is one of the few states that requires a super majority to reach a quorum rather than just a simple majority plus one. Republicans cited several issues for the walkout with HB 2002, dealing with abortion and transgender rights, among the top issues of contention. After six weeks of absences, legislative leaders reached a compromise that allowed legislative business to continue.

The Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) Board of Directors identified three legislative priorities for the 2023 Session. They were:

- Community College Support Fund of \$855 million with \$50 million in one-time funding
- Doubling of the Oregon Opportunity Grant to \$415 million
- Passage of legislation to empower community colleges to offer Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees.

Each priority is discussed in further detail below.

Housing and homelessness were among the top funding priorities for legislators this session with legislators investing over \$200 million to expand housing and provide rental assistance. The Legislature also made significant investments in the state public defender program, overhauled K-12 reading programs, and in state-based financial aid for college students.

These were among many investments that fared better than expected earlier in the Session when legislators were anticipating negative quarterly revenue forecasts which would have meant scaling back budgets. Instead, the final forecast of the Session showed strong revenue growth and a mostly positive outlook over the next few biennia. This had a positive effect on state funding and resulted in better-than-expected budgets in many areas, including higher education funding.

### Budgets

As the Session began, colleges were still recovering from the loss of student enrollment and revenue resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This placed significant pressure on college budgets. After receiving \$700 million for the 2021-23 biennium for the Community College Support Fund (CCSF), colleges estimated they would need just over \$1 billion to truly maintain all current programs and services while making up for the loss in tuition revenue and federal emergency relief dollars that were used to prop up college budgets during the pandemic. An increase of that magnitude would be unprecedented, particularly at a time when colleges appeared to be shrinking.

As the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) developed its budget request to go to the Governor prior to the start of the Session, OCCA urged the Commission to adopt a budget of \$850 million in ongoing funds and \$150 million in one-time funds. At this level, colleges could minimize budget cuts and tuition increases, causing less of an impact on students. The HECC recommended \$850 million in ongoing funding but only \$50 million in one-time funds in their Agency Recommended Budget.

In January 2023, Governor Tina Kotek released the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) with CCSF funding well below HECC recommendations at just \$744 million. While the GRB did include a substantial \$100 million increase for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, Gov. Kotek's budget primarily reflected her stated priorities of housing and homelessness, behavioral health, (K-12) education and early learning. Both support funds for public universities and community colleges were less than the state estimated Current Service Level (CSL) - \$768 million for community colleges.

In March 2023, the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means released their budget framework, which is the Legislature's first draft for the budget they ultimately pass. Still operating on the assumption that state revenues were on the decline, the co-chairs' framework also had community college funding below state CSL and even further below the community college request of \$850 million in on-going funding and an additional \$50 million, recommending funding for colleges at \$745 million. In their framework, the Oregon Opportunity Grant also received only a modest current service level increase above its current funding of \$208 million.

Throughout the 2023 Legislative Session OCCA worked with a coalition involving labor, students, and universities to advocate that legislators increase budgets for higher education funding beyond the GRB or the co-chairs' framework. By April, it appeared likely that colleges and universities could each reach the state CSL funding levels - \$768 million. However, the surprisingly positive May revenue forecast allowed legislators to go further than they originally believed. Ultimately, legislators funded the Community College Support Fund at \$800 million and made a significant \$100 million investment in the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

[\(See the HB 5025 Budget Report for more details.\)](#)

### **Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)**

The OCCA Board of Directors made passing legislation to authorize colleges to offer Bachelor of Science degrees in Nursing (BSN) one of its top legislative priorities. To that end, OCCA worked with Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, to draft and ultimately pass Senate Bill 523. That legislation will empower colleges to offer and the HECC to authorize BSN degrees at Oregon community colleges.

Currently, colleges offer associate degrees in nursing, but many students do not go on to get a BSN degree, or when they do, they often use costly out-of-state online options. Many students

are also using currently available options through Oregon Health and Sciences University, public universities, and some private universities. Stakeholders from the 4-year sector largely opposed the legislation arguing that it would make nursing education less coordinated in the state. However, legislators were more persuaded by the case made by a mix of local hospitals, college leadership, nursing educators, and students who argued that it would create opportunities for students who would not otherwise go on to pursue a BSN and help especially rural communities tailor programs to local needs.

SB 523 went on to pass unanimously in both the state House and Senate.

### Capital Construction

Governor Tina Kotek made housing the primary focus of her capital construction funding recommendation to the Legislature, budgeting roughly \$1 billion for new housing and did not recommend funding for any new project for community colleges or universities along with most other non-housing related areas. The Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) reauthorized only three of the six community college capital construction projects. OCCA advocated to fund all reauthorization and new projects and worked with colleges, committee staff and legislative leadership to ensure they were included at critical points in the Ways and Means process. Ultimately, the six project reauthorizations and five new projects were all funded at their requested levels.

### Reauthorizations

**Chemeketa Community College Building Seven Remodel: \$8,110,000**

**Klamath Community College Childcare Resource Learning Center: \$1,535,000**

**Rogue Community College Transportation Technology Center: \$7,105,000**

**Central Oregon Community College, Redmond Campus Renovation/Expansion: \$4,050,000**

**Clatsop Community College Maritime Science Building: \$8,010,000**

**Oregon Coast Community College Center for Trades Education: \$8,110,000**

### New Projects

**Columbia Gorge Campus Renovation: \$5,595,000**

**Lane Community College Science Math and Engineering Building Renovation: \$8,110,000**

**Portland Community College Rock Creek Campus Building Complex: \$8,110,000**

**Southwestern Oregon Community College: Student Uplift & Create Expanded Support Success: \$8,110,000**



**Umpqua Community College Welcome Center & Medical Careers Training Hub: \$8,110,000**

[See HB 5005 budget report for more details. Community college projects begin on page 12.](#)

### Advocacy

OCCA provided community college board members, presidents, students, faculty, and staff with a variety of tools, resources, and activities to connect with legislators and advocate for the community college budget and policy bills during the 2023 Legislative Session.

- **Advocacy/Legislative Training:** OCCA held several training opportunities for college board members and staff to help prepare them for advocating and messaging for the Legislative Session. The virtual **Advocacy Training** in October 2022 included a role play with Rep. Bobby Levy (R-Echo) to practice meetings with legislators, a panel of seasoned advocates, lobbying tips, and an overview of the advocacy plan for 2023. This training was recorded and available for later viewing by advocates on the OCCA website. The **Legislative Summit** in March 2023 included information about messaging, panels of legislators from key education committees, and an opportunity for student advocates to gain experience connecting with legislators. The Summit coincided with Community College Lobby Day in Salem.
- **Direct Advocacy:** OCCA engaged in direct legislative advocacy before and during the Legislative Session as well as coordinated meetings between college leaders and legislative leadership. OCCA created, produced, and presented the community college budget to the Education Subcommittee of Ways and Means. OCCA also engaged directly with advocacy partners including labor, students, and other sector partners.
- **Advocacy Toolkit:** OCCA created this online toolkit for college board members, advocates, and stakeholders to have a one-stop shop for advocacy tools. The toolkit – available on the OCCA website, as well as in Basecamp – included talking points and one-page information sheets for each legislative priority, as well as several policy bills and the capital construction ask, testimony templates, social media guidelines, background on the budget, the virtual Advocacy Training recording, guidance for using Voter Voice, and other related documents helpful for those advocating on behalf of the colleges. OCCA continued to update the toolkit throughout the Session to keep it relevant for advocates.
- **Voter Voice:** This is the grassroots advocacy platform that OCCA utilizes to give college board members, presidents, staff, faculty, students, and other stakeholders and advocates an easy way to contact legislators about important issues. The platform allows users to contact legislators via email, Twitter, or phone. OCCA conducted nine Voter Voice campaigns during the 2023 Session. These campaigns included advocacy regarding the budget, SB 523 (Bachelor of Science in Nursing bill), Career-Technical Education, the Oregon Opportunity Grant, and capital construction. These campaigns reached nearly all legislators with consistent messaging about each issue. The most successful campaign

was related to the Community College Day of Action on May 18, which generated 710 messages to 75 legislators by 353 advocates.

- **CTE Month:** OCCA once again held a virtual CTE Month during National CTE Month in February to promote and highlight community college Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. OCCA prefers to hold a CTE Day at the Capital, but due to ongoing construction at the statehouse, an in-person event was not possible in 2023. Using tools and guidance from OCCA, colleges instead promoted their programs on social media according to different career pathway themes each week. Each Wednesday, OCCA hosted a virtual “Workforce Wednesday” Zoom session to allow legislators to learn more about college CTE programs in accordance with that week’s theme. These sessions were recorded and sent to legislators who could not attend.
- **Day of Action:** OCCA hosted a Day of Action on May 18, 2023, to encourage community college advocates to reach out to legislators regarding the community college budget all in a single day. OCCA created flyers for the event and worked directly with colleges to encourage them to hold events on campus to promote sending messages to legislators through the Day of Action Voter Voice campaign. The event was very successful, and several colleges hosted on-campus activities with students and staff to send messages.
- **Weekly Legislative Calls:** OCCA hosted a Zoom call each Monday afternoon during the Legislative Session to update college board members, presidents, and other staff on the Session. Each call provided an update on what’s happening at the Capital, a report on upcoming and recent bill hearings, and solicited colleges to advocate on certain issues or provide testimony. These calls were well-attended each week, with notes being sent out afterwards.
- **Monthly Legislator e-Newsletter:** At the end of each month, OCCA sent an e-newsletter to legislators through Voter Voice with updates on community college issues. Though sent throughout the year – even in the interim – the e-newsletters during the Session focused on legislative issues important to the colleges, as well as messaging regarding the budget.
- **OCCA Digest:** Each week, the *OCCA Digest* e-newsletter provided subscribers with updates from the legislative session, calls to action for advocacy campaigns through Voter Voice or other activities like the Day of Action, and a calendar of upcoming hearings. The *OCCA Digest* currently has nearly 700 subscribers, comprised primarily of college board members, presidents, and staff/faculty.
- **Campus Advocacy Coordinators (CACs):** OCCA led this team of advocacy leaders from each institution to help share consistent messages and advocacy activities throughout the Session. The CACs were critical liaisons between OCCA and the colleges related to legislative advocacy. Ahead of the Session, OCCA held a retreat for CACs in July 2022 to prepare for the Session.

## Priority 1 & 2 Bills

(P) = Passed (NP) = Not Passed

### Budget

**(P) HECC Budget (HB 5025)** – Appropriates money from General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for certain biennial expenses. [See summary above.](#)

**(P) Continuing Resolution (HB 5046)** – Authorizes expenditures for obligations incurred by state agencies on or after July 1, 2023, that do not exceed specified levels. The continuing resolution is passed each full session to keep money flowing to state agencies between the time the Legislature has passed budgets and the governor signs them. Had this legislation gone into effect without budgets being passed (due to the Senate Republicans' walkout) community colleges would have received no funding until budgets were passed.

### Capital Construction

**(P) Community College Capital Projects (HB 5005)** – Establishes amounts authorized for issuance of general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, certificates of participation and other financing agreements for biennium. All new and reauthorized capital projects were funded. [See summary above.](#)

**(P) Capital Construction (HB 5006)** – Limits for six-year period beginning July 1, 2023, payment of expenses from fees, money or other revenues, including Miscellaneous Receipts, but excluding lottery funds and federal funds, collected or received by various state agencies for capital construction. This is the legislation that sets the six-year limitation on the projects authorized in [\(HB 5005\)](#).

### Corrections

**(P) Correctional Education Memorandum (SB 269)** – Directs Department of Corrections and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to enter into a memorandum of understanding regarding correctional education system. OCCA supported this legislation, which is intended to create better coordination between the Department of Corrections and the HECC to increase educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals. The

legislation also directs the agencies to coordinate around Second Chance Pell, which provides Pell Grants for adults in custody to take college-level courses.

**(P) Correctional Education Agreements (SB 270)** – Authorizes Department of Corrections to enter into agreements to offer academic programs to adults in custody with academic program at any community college in state, any distance learning academic program or any other higher education academic program, provided that enrollment in academic program is consistent with administrative rules and regulations adopted by Department of Corrections and, as applicable, federal regulations relating to federal Pell Grant.

**(NP) Connecting Adults in Custody (AIC) and Former AICs to Colleges and Programs (SB 1082)** – Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish project connecting adults in custody and former adults in custody (AIC) to community colleges, public universities and apprenticeship programs. This bill would have provided funding for AICs to receive education and mentoring from their incarceration and afterward to finding a career. OCCA supported the legislation, which was passed by the Senate Education committee but was then sent to the Joint Committee Ways and Means where it did not move further through the process.

### CTE/STEM

**(P) Permits Aviation Maintenance in Neighboring State (SB 482)** – Provides that course work in aviation maintenance occurring at airport in neighboring state may be included in clock hours of instruction for purposes of Community College Support Fund. This bill is specific to Columbia Gorge Community College and the Oregon-owned airport, physically located in Washington State, where aviation maintenance courses are taught. OCCA supported the legislation, which passed unanimously in both chambers, and will go into effect on January 1, 2024.

### Education Policy

**(NP) Public Charter School Sponsorship (SB 239)** – Allows post-secondary institution of education to be sponsor of public charter school. The OCCA board approved opposition of this bill, and it did not receive a hearing.

**(NP) HECC Study on Higher Education Funding (SB 264 and SB 265)** – Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct study to determine best method for allocating moneys to public post-secondary institutions of education. This bill came out of the Joint Taskforce on Underrepresented Student Success in Higher Education (JTUSHE) and did not receive a hearing.

**(NP) HECC Study on Higher Education Funding Allocation (SB 274 and SB 266)** – Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct study to determine best method for allocating moneys to public post-secondary institutions of education. OCCA opposed this legislation, which did not receive a hearing. On April 13, Republicans in the Senate motioned to withdraw the bill from committee to floor for a vote, but the motion failed.

### Equity

**(P) Oregon Tribal Student Grant (HB 3565)** – Establishes Oregon Tribal Student Grant program in the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Bill covers cost of attendance for students from federally recognized tribes to attend “eligible postsecondary institutions”, including community colleges and universities, undergraduate and master’s programs. The bill passed the House and was referred to Ways and Means. Ultimately, funding for tribal grants was included in HB 5025, the HECC budget, in the amount of just over \$24 million.

### Financial Aid

**(NP) Veterans Participation in Oregon Promise (HB 2615)** – Allows veterans to participate in Oregon Promise program if first enrolled in classes within 12 months after discharge from military. OCCA did not take a position on this legislation, which received a hearing in a House policy committee but was then referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means where it did not move further in the process.

**(NP) Expansion of Oregon Promise (HB 3566)** – Makes Oregon Promise program grants available to students at community colleges, public universities, Oregon Health and Science University and not-for-profit institutions of higher education in state. The OCCA board took the position that serving adult students should be the priority for the Oregon Promise, which only serves students within 6 months of high school graduation or GED completion, before adding eligibility to the other sectors of education. This legislation did not receive a hearing.

### Health Care

**(P) Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Community Colleges (SB 523)** – Authorizes community colleges to offer Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees. [See summary above.](#)

**(NP) Grants for Dental Assisting and Hygienist Training (HB 2979)** – Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish program to issue grants to community colleges to promote and increase dental assistant and dental hygienist training programs in Oregon. OCCA worked with the sponsors of the legislation to clarify a section of concern for many community college dental program directors. OCCA later supported the bill, though it was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means and did not move further.

**(NP) Dental Assisting Examination Requirements (HB 2996)** – Prohibits Oregon Board of Dentistry from requiring applicant for certification as dental assistant to pass written examination for radiological proficiency. OCCA did not take a position on this legislation, but the bill’s sponsor eventually switched focus from this bill to HB 3223 (see below), which OCCA opposed.

**(NP) Rural Nursing Tax Credit (HB 3128 and HB 3413 and SB 493)** – Adds registered nurse who is a nursing faculty member to the types of providers who are eligible for income tax credit allowed to rural medical providers. OCCA supported these bills to help address rural health care gaps, but none of them moved through the process.

**(P) Dental Assisting Exam (HB 3223)** – Prohibits Oregon Board of Dentistry from requiring applicant for certification as dental assistant to pass written examination. OCCA opposed this legislation because community college dental program directors had significant concerns with the negative effect prohibiting national board exams would have on ensuring appropriately trained dental assistants and maintaining high program standards and patient safety. OCCA worked with the bill sponsors to significantly alter the final legislation so that exams could still be required but would become available in both Spanish and Vietnamese over the next two years, which the Dental Assistants National Board testified they could provide.

**(NP) Registered Nurse Grant Program (HB 3315)** – Establishes Registered Nurse Grant program within Higher Education Coordinating Commission. OCCA supported this legislation, though it did not receive a hearing.

**(NP) Nurse Educator Workforce Stipend Program (HB 3324)** – Directs Oregon Health Authority to establish Nurse Educator Workforce Stipend Program to provide incentives to nurse instructors. This bill was passed in the House Behavioral Health and Health Care committee with subsequent referral to Ways and Means where it did not move further.

**(NP) Emergency Medical Services Provider, Eligibility for Licensure (SB 60)** – Prohibits Oregon Health Authority from requiring associate degree or higher for eligibility for licensure as emergency medical services provider. This legislation received a hearing in the Senate Health Care committee but did not receive a work session nor move further in the process.

**(NP) Dental Care Provider Incentive Grant (SB 441)** – Creates dental care provider incentive grant program within Oregon Health Authority to increase recruitment and retention of dental care providers. This legislation received a hearing but no work session was held and it did not move further in the process.

### Operations

**(NP) Faculty Ratio (HB 3115)** – Requires each community college and public university to have at least 45 percent of the total number of credit hours offered taught by full-time employees during 2024-2025 academic year, at least 55 percent of total number of credit hours taught by full-time employees during 2025-2026 academic year, at least 65 percent of total number of credit hours offered taught by full-time employees during 2026-2027 academic year, and at least 75 percent of total number of credit hours offered taught by full-time employees every academic year thereafter. OCCA testified in opposition to this bill and the mandatory ratios established as an infringement on local community college governance. OCCA noted the cost of implementing these arbitrary ratios as a “one size fits all” solution that does not reflect community and workforce demands. In addition, the bill would have penalized colleges that did not meet the mandatory ratios by withholding state funding. OCCA provided talking points for colleges to use outlining these concerns. The bill died in the House Higher Education Committee after two public hearings were held.

**(NP) Budget Transparency (SB 761)** – Requires each post-secondary institution of education that receives state moneys to make institutions’ budgets and expenditures publicly available on each institution's website. This bill did not receive a hearing and died in the Senate Education Committee.

**(P) PERS Clock Hours Calculation (HB 2740)** – Modifies method for calculation of hours of employment of academic employees of community colleges and public universities for purposes of Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). HB 2740 establishes a statewide uniform factor that must be used by colleges and universities to calculate hours for PERS eligibility. The bill sets a multiplier of 2.67 hours for every hour of lecture or lab time taught by academic employees. OCCA opposed this bill but worked with the bill’s sponsors to amend the bill and reduce the originally proposed multiplier from 4.35 hours to 2.67 hours.

### Personnel

**(NP) Part-time Faculty Pay Equity (SB 416)** – Requires public universities and community colleges to pay part-time faculty at same rate, on per-hour basis, as public university or community college pays full-time faculty to prepare for and teach a course. OCCA

opposed SB 416, which would have created a mandated pay rate for part-time faculty that did not recognize the difference in duties between full-time faculty and part-time faculty. The bill received a public hearing in the Senate Education Committee but did not move out of committee due to concerns related to the cost of this mandate.

**(P) Part-time Faculty Health Care (HB 2611)** – Requires that dental and vision are included in health benefits available to part-time faculty members. This bill modifies the existing health insurance program created several years ago to provide benefits for eligible part-time faculty working at one or more higher education institutions. HB 2611 simplifies eligibility requirements based on PERS eligibility and expands the basic SB 551 health plan offered by PEBB/OEBB to include medical, dental, and vision benefits.

### Property Tax

**(NP) Property Tax Withholding (HB 2088)** – Directs county treasurer to withhold three percent of all property tax moneys for use by county for administration of property tax laws. OCCA joined with other local governments in opposing this bill and raising concerns about the redirection of local property taxes from colleges. The bill was heard in the House Revenue Committee but died in committee.

### Public Contracting

**(NP) Contracts and Apprentice Utilization Requirements (SB 518)** – Specifies contract price at which apprentice utilization requirements apply to qualified contracts with institutions of higher education and school districts. OCCA opposed SB 518 which would have reduced the threshold for construction contracts that must meet apprenticeship and other contractor requirements. Written testimony in opposition was submitted on behalf of community colleges. The lowering of the threshold would have had a disproportionate impact on rural colleges with fewer local contractors who are apprenticeship training agents. The bill was heard in the Senate Education Committee but did not move out of the committee after school districts, community colleges, and public universities raised concerns.

### Student Success

**(NP) Benefits Navigators Funding (HB 2262)** – Filed by request of the Joint Taskforce on Underrepresented Student Success in Higher Education (JTUSHE). Appropriates money from General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to



community colleges and public universities to fund the hiring of additional benefits navigators. The bill passed the House and was referred to Ways and Means where it died.

**(NP) Student Housing Task Force (HB 2263)** – Establishes Task Force on Student Housing for purpose of examining student housing availability and funding at post-secondary institutions of education with goal of developing specific and actionable recommendations to improve student housing availability, accessibility and affordability and recommendations on how institutions can be open, welcoming and safe places for houseless students. Also establishes Task Force on Student Access to Child Care for purpose of reviewing state-provided childcare grants and campus-based childcare centers. This bill passed the House and was referred to Ways and Means where it died.

**(NP) High School Graduate Readiness Study (HB 2264)** – Requires Department of Education to conduct study to determine how best to ensure all high school graduates are academically prepared to attend post-secondary institutions of education. This was another placeholder from the Joint Taskforce on Underrepresented Student Success in Higher Education (JTUSHE). The bill did not receive a hearing.

**(NP) Funding Post-Secondary Education Task Force (HB 2265)** – Establishes Task Force on Funding Post-Secondary Education for purpose of reviewing how higher education is funded in Oregon, comparing funding of higher education in Oregon to funding of higher education in other states and making recommendations for how to increase funding for post-secondary institutions of education in a manner that can stabilize tuition rates for enrolled students. This bill was amended, passed the House, and was referred to Ways and Means where it died.

**(NP) Opening Educational Resources Funding (HB 3121)** – Appropriates moneys to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for purpose of carrying out Oregon's Open Educational Resources (OER) Program. Passed the House and was referred to Ways and Means where it died.

**(NP) Study on Higher Education Access and Financial Support (HB 3122)** – This was another placeholder from the Joint Taskforce on Underrepresented Student Success in Higher Education (JTUSHE). The bill did not receive a hearing.

**(NP) Study on Improving Graduation Rate of Post-Secondary Students (HB 3452)** – Placeholder from the Joint Taskforce on Underrepresented Student Success in Higher Education (JTUSHE). The bill did not receive a hearing.

**(NP) Expansion of ASPIRE Programs (HB 3559)** – Expands ASPIRE programs to include career pathway options. Introduced at the request of HECC, this bill did not get a hearing.

**(NP) Oregon Promise Eligibility Changes (SB 262)** – Amends Oregon Promise program to limit eligibility to people with adjusted gross income, either individually if independent student or combined with parent and guardian income if dependent student, at or below \$100,000. Added requirement that a student must be a resident of Oregon for at least 12 months prior to enrolling in postsecondary institution. The bill passed the Senate and was referred to Ways and Means where it died.

**(NP) Study to Improve Employment Opportunities for Post-Secondary Graduates (SB 263)** Placeholder from the Joint Taskforce on Underrepresented Student Success in Higher Education (JTUSHE). The bill did not receive a hearing.

## Students

**(P) Sexual Misconduct Survey Council (HB 3456)** – Establishes Sexual Misconduct Survey Council. HB 3456 creates several new requirements related to campus sexual misconduct. This includes the creation of an annual survey that must be administered by community colleges and universities. In addition, the bill includes new training requirements for students and all institution employees. Finally, the bill includes new processes for course waivers and new institutional reporting requirements. OCCA joined with public universities in raising concerns about the bill and requested an interim work group to continue work on the concepts in the bill. Despite urging more work and raising concerns about the cost of a number of provisions in the bill, the bill passed.

**(P) Prohibition on Transcript Withholding for Debt (SB 424)** – Prohibits post-secondary institutions of education that are based in Oregon from refusing to provide transcript to current or former student because student owes debt to institution. OCCA worked to get the bill amended to reduce the institutional reporting burden. A report regarding the number of current and former students who owe debt to the institution and institution's policy and procedures on phasing out transcript holds is due to the HECC by September 15, 2024.

**(NP) "Hunger Free Campus" Designation (HB 3089)** – Authorizes Higher Education Coordinating Commission to award "Hunger Free Campus" designation to public universities and community colleges that demonstrate required actions taken to combat hunger. Also makes allowance, when funding is available, for HECC to administer a grant program to provide funding for student hunger programs and innovations at public institutions of higher education. The bill passed the House, was referred to Ways and Means, and died there.

### Workforce

**(NP) Grant Program for Expanding Scope and Community Outreach of College Access and Success Programs (HB 3120)** – Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish grant program for purpose of supporting organizations to expand scope and community outreach of college access and success programs. OCCA supported this legislation which passed in the House Committee on Higher Education with a subsequent referral to Ways and Means where it did not move further in the process.

**(NP) Semiconductor Talent Sustaining Fund (HB 3254)** – Establishes Semiconductor Talent Sustaining Fund and subaccounts of fund. This legislation passed out of its House committee and was eventually referred to Ways and Means where it did not move further in the process.

**(NP) Semiconductor and Advanced Manufacturing Talent Grant (SB 1102)** – Establishes Semiconductor and Advanced Manufacturing Talent Grant program. This legislation did not receive a hearing.

**(NP) Establishment of Plan to Implement Improvements to Workforce Development System (SB 415)** – Directs Office of the Governor to establish plan to implement recommendations for improvements to workforce development system. This legislation did not receive a hearing.

## Additional Bills – Priority 3

### Campus Safety

**(P) Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (HB 2049)** – Transfers Oregon Cybersecurity Advisory Council from office of Enterprise Information Services to Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence. OCCA supported this legislation and an earlier version of it in the 2022 short session that did not pass. This time, however, the legislation was successful.

**(P) Exemption from Disclosure Records (HB 2490)** – Exempts from required public disclosure law records concerning cybersecurity plans, devices and systems, including contractual and insurance records setting forth specifications, applications and coverages. This bill exempts sensitive documents and plans related to cybersecurity that are in place to protect computers, information technology, and other systems from threat

or attack. OCCA supported this bill with other local governments to ensure this information is not subject to public disclosure.

### Capital Construction

**(NP) Capital Construction Grant Program (SB 122)** – Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to develop and implement grant program to distribute grants to eligible community colleges for matching amounts for Article XI-G bonds. OCCA worked with Senator Chris Gorsek, who introduced SB 122 to create a fund at the HECC for colleges that have been historically unable to pass bonds for capital construction projects. The bill did not receive a hearing.

**(NP) Earthquake Shelters at Schools and Community Colleges (HB 3486)** – Designates certain newly constructed structures in schools and community colleges as earthquake relief shelters. This bill would have added new seismic requirements for large spaces constructed in schools and community colleges. OCCA joined the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) and the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators in raising concerns about this bill. The bill was heard in the House Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans Committee. It died in committee.

### Ethics

**(P) Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) Requirements (HB 2038)** – Requires statement of economic interest to include certain information about sources of income for business in which public official or candidate, or member of household of public official or candidate, is officer, holds directorship or does business under if source of income has legislative or administrative interest and 10 percent or more of total gross annual income of business comes from that source of income. The new reporting requirements apply to SEI filers which include community college presidents and chief financial officers. Community college board members are not required to file annual SEIs.

**(P) Communication Modalities and Public Meetings Law (HB 2805)** – Provides that use of serial electronic written communication or use of intermediaries to communicate may constitute meeting of governing body subject to public meetings law if other specified conditions are satisfied. This bill also requires that every member of a governing body of a public body with total expenditures of a \$1 million or more per fiscal year attend or view online public meetings training developed by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission. It also expands the Oregon Government Ethics Commission's oversight over public meetings law. The bill takes effect 91 days after June 25, 2023.

**(P) Allowance of Executive Session for Matters of Safety and Security (HB 2806)** – Authorizes governing body of public body to meet in executive session to consider matters relating to safety of governing body, public body staff and public body volunteers and to security of public body facilities and meeting spaces, and relating to cyber security infrastructure and responses to cyber security threats. Previously, circumstances under which a governing body may meet in executive session include: employment, dismissal, discipline, or job performance of public officers, employees or staff; labor negotiations; records exempt from public disclosure; consultation with counsel; negotiation of real property transactions, trade, or public investments; matters of medical competency; or security of sensitive sites. HB 2806 expands topic qualifications for public body executive sessions to include safety concerns of public body officials, staff, facilities, and cybersecurity. OCCA supported this bill and it takes effect immediately upon passage.

**(P) Oregon Government Ethics Commission Authority (SB 207)** – Authorizes Oregon Government Ethics Commission to proceed on its own motion, as though it received a complaint, if it has reason to believe that a violation of executive session provisions of public meetings law exists.

### Financial Aid

**(P) Oregon Opportunity Grant and Former Foster Children (SB 449)** – Modifies definition of "former foster child" for purposes of tuition and fee waiver program, Oregon Opportunity Grant program, and foster child scholarship program.

### Governance

**(P) Higher Education Coordinating Commission Composition (HB 3564)** – Increases number of members of Higher Education Coordinating Commission representing congressional districts from five to six and decreases number of members of commission representing general public from four to three. This legislation was intended to reflect Oregon receiving an additional congressional district after the 2020 census. The current makeup of the HECC has a representative from each congressional district. The legislation was successful.

## Health Care

**(NP) Nursing Faculty and Income Tax Credit (HB 2744)** – Adds registered nurse who is nursing faculty member to types of providers who are eligible for income tax credit allowed to rural medical providers.

**(NP) Financial Incentives for Clinical Training Opportunities for Nursing Students (HB 2926)** – Directs Oregon Health Authority to establish program to provide financial incentives to hospitals for offering clinical training opportunities for nursing students.

**(NP) Extension of Health Care Provider Program to Students (HB 2928)** – Extends health care provider incentive program to health care providers who are students enrolled in health professional training programs leading to licensure as licensed practical nurse or registered nurse.

## Operations

**(P) Record Submission Following Changes in District Boundaries (SB 271)** – Requires governing bodies of counties to submit to Department of Education record showing any changes in boundaries of school districts over which board has jurisdiction. The legislation requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to make available to the public on the commission’s website a record of the boundaries of all community college districts and community college service districts in the state.

## PERS

**(P) Extension of Sunset on Reemployment Hours of Retired PERS Members (HB 2296)** – Extends sunset from 2024 to 2034 on provisions allowing retired member of Public Employees Retirement System to be reemployed by participating public employer for unlimited number of hours without reduction in pension benefits. This bill allows PERS retirees including community college employees to continue to work after retirement if permitted by the public employer.

## Personnel

**(P) Public Employees and Support of Public Officials (SB 168)** – Expressly prohibits public employees, while on job during working hours or while otherwise working in official capacity, from promoting or opposing appointment, nomination or election of public officials. This bill replaces the term "candidate", which is in current law, with "person to a public office" and clarifies that public employees are prohibited from promoting or opposing the appointment, nomination, or election of a person to an elected office while on the job during working hours or otherwise acting in the public employee's official capacity. The measure also prohibits a public employee from promoting or opposing the filing of an initiative, referendum, or recall petition. The bill excludes periods of time during which public employee takes time off for meal or rest breaks, or other allowable time, in accordance with Oregon labor laws, from meaning of when employee is on job during work hours.

**(P) Unemployment Benefits and Nonprofessional Education Workers (SB 489)** – Eliminates restrictions on payment of unemployment insurance benefits to certain nonprofessional educational workers. The unemployment insurance (UI) program has special provisions that apply to people who work for educational institutions, generally restricting employees from receiving UI benefits during school breaks, including summer break. In 2019, House Bill 2660 allowed janitorial and maintenance employees of public and nonprofit educational institutions to receive unemployment insurance, if standard eligibility requirements are met, during school breaks, vacations, and holidays in situations where the employee has a reasonable assurance of returning to work after the break. Senate Bill 489 extends those benefits to all educational workers who are not performing instructional, research, or principal administrative work. OCCA joined OSBA in submitting testimony expressing concerns that the proposed changes in this bill may impact the colleges' already tight budgets. OCCA let legislators know that most community colleges are reimbursing employers for purposes of UI; meaning that the cost of unemployment benefits for eligible employees is directly paid by the employing college on a dollar-for-dollar basis. This bill ultimately passed.

## Public Contracting

**(P) Public Contracting Preference Expansion – Veterans (HB 2295)** – Broadens public contracting preference for businesses that service-disabled veterans own to include all veteran-owned businesses. This bill passed both chambers unanimously and takes effect 91 days after June 25, 2023.

**(P) Public Improvement Contracts and Outreach and Recruitment of Underrepresented Populations (HB 2649)** – Provides that qualifying agency must require as material provision of public improvement contract that contractor establish and implement plan for outreach to and recruitment and retention of women, minority individuals and veterans to perform work under public improvement contract, with aspirational target of having individuals in one or more of these groups perform at least 15 percent of total work hours that workers perform under public improvement contract. HB 2649 adds all community college and public university public improvement contracts over \$3 million to existing apprenticeship utilization requirements. OCCA joined with public universities, contractors, and others in opposing this legislation. It passed both chambers of the legislature on a split vote.

**(P) Procurement Preference of Public Use Goods (HB 3572)** – Permits contracting agency to grant preference to procuring for public use goods or services that are provided by benefit company incorporated, organized, formed or created under laws of this state, if goods or services cost no more than five percent more than goods or services available from contractor that is not benefit company. HB 3572 grants a preference to benefit companies with the majority of regular, full-time workforce operating in Oregon that considers impacts on society and the environment in addition to profit earnings.

**(NP) Procurement Preference of Public Use Goods (SB 442)** – Permits contracting agency to grant preference to procuring for public use goods that are fabricated or processed, or services that are performed, entirely within this state if goods or services cost no more than five percent more than goods not processed or fabricated, or services not performed, entirely within this state if contracting agency can reasonably and credibly determine that procuring at higher price offsets environmental costs of transporting goods or service providers from outside this state. This bill, introduced by Senator Hayden, did not receive a work session in the House committee prior to the bill deadline.

**(NP) Stipulations for Construction Projects that Use Public Funds (SB 850)** – Requires public body that procures construction services for certain qualified projects that use \$750,000 or more in funds of public agency or money made available to state under federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to enter into project labor agreement that, at minimum, provides for payment of wages at or above prevailing rate of wage, to use apprentices to perform at least 15 percent of work hours that workers in apprenticeable occupations perform on project, and to establish and execute plan for outreach, recruitment and retention of women, minority individuals and veterans to perform work on project. OCCA joined with school districts, local governments, and business groups in opposing this bill due to concerns about the impact on rural colleges with limited local contractors who could meet these requirements. The bill received several public hearings but did not pass out of the Senate Labor and Business Committee.



**(P) Increase in Contract Price Threshold for Public Contracts Procurement (SB 1047)** – Raises contract price threshold under which contracting agency may apply certain solicitation and procurement methods for public contracts. OCCA supported this bill which increases the thresholds in public contracting law for small and intermediate procurements. The small procurement threshold is raised from \$10,000 to \$25,000 and the intermediate procurement threshold maximum is raised from \$150,000 to \$250,000. This will speed up the procurement process for small and intermediate procurements.

### Revenue

**(NP) Property Tax Distribution Withholding (HB 3281)** – Authorizes county tax collector to withhold from property tax distributions to taxing districts within county amount equal to three percent of such distributions. OCCA opposed this bill which would have allowed county tax collectors to withhold 3% of property tax distributions from local taxing districts including community colleges when financial condition of county was designated as high risk of financial distress by Oregon Secretary of State. The bill did not receive a hearing.

### Student Success

**(NP) Increasing Opportunities and Access to Services and Support for Underrepresented Students (HB 2961)** – Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to establish a program for postsecondary institutions to provide current high school students with transition services and outreach. Establishes block grant at HECC to support those programs. Requires Department of Early Learning and Care to conduct comprehensive review of Oregon Student Child Care Grant Program and childcare centers located at post-secondary institutions. Also requires each public postsecondary institution to integrate student support services and provide each enrolled student with a “navigator” for utilizing those services. Referred to Ways and Means where it subsequently died.

### Students

**(NP) Study on Food Insecurity Among Postsecondary Students (HB 2393)** – Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct study to determine how to best address food insecurity for students enrolled in post-secondary institutions of education in this state. This bill did not receive a hearing as HB 3089 became the primary vehicle for this work.

## Workforce

**(NP) Grants for Small Business Development Centers (HB 2908)** – Appropriates money to Oregon Business Development Department for purpose of awarding grants for formation, improvement, and operation of small business development centers. This legislation passed out of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business with subsequent referral to Ways and Means where it did not move further.

**(NP) Program for Supporting Investments in Maritime Workforce Development (HB 3139)** – Establishes program within Higher Education Coordinating Commission for supporting strategic investments in maritime workforce development programs and activities. This legislation passed out of the House Committee on Higher Education with a subsequent referral to Ways and Means where it did not move further.

**(P) Grant and Loan Program for Production of Semiconductors (SB 4)** – Directs Oregon Business Development Department to develop grant and loan program to support businesses applying for financial assistance under Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-167). This legislation is intended to help Oregon access federal CHIPS funds meant to bolster the national semiconductor industry. The legislation provides \$400 million in one-time funds to a variety of purposes including grants and loans to Oregon businesses. While higher education advocates had hoped for specific funding for post-secondary workforce training it did not make it into the final version of the legislation.

Implementation Report – coming soon!