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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCCA represents community colleges at September 'Legislative Days'

SALEM, Ore. – Oregon community colleges will have several opportunities to testify during legislators' quarterly "Legislative Days" next week (Sept. 23-25) where legislators will hear invited testimony that will provide updates on ongoing and new topics they may want to address in the 2025 Session.

Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) has worked with the chair of the House Committee on Higher Education to provide an update on emerging community college Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN) programs. The Committee will also hear an update from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) on the ongoing work to create more seamless transfer from community colleges to four-year public universities. OCCA has been closely involved in legislative work around better transfer pathways from community colleges to public universities. Computer science and business program faculty members from Portland Community College and Tillamook Bay Community College plan to testify.

This will be the final "Legislative Days" before the Sept. 27 deadline for legislators to file bills that will be released prior to the start of the 2025 Legislative Session.

Also next week, OCCA will participate in a breakfast meeting with the Higher Education Advocacy group, which includes representatives from community colleges, public universities and private colleges and universities. The group is meeting to discuss potential partnership opportunities and ways to collaborate during the 2025 Legislative Session.

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The Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) represents the 17 publicly chartered community colleges and their locally elected board members in Oregon. Founded in 1962, OCCA's purpose is to support the colleges before policy-makers and partners whose actions affect the well-being of community colleges across the state.