

Ways to be an Advocate

There are numerous ways to be a community college advocate! See which fit your preferences best.

One-Click Politics Campaigns

This is a quick & easy way to be an advocate without having to put in much time or effort. Simply click on the campaign link, enter your address, and a message to your legislators will pre-populate for you. Feel free to personalize it - or not! Current campaigns are listed on the OCCA website, www.occa17.com/advocacy/#take-action

Lobby Days at the Capital

Meet with your local legislators during a community college Lobby Day at the state Capital. These meetings are usually limited to 15 minutes, so be sure to utilize talking points provided by OCCA in your 2025 Advocacy Toolkit to stay on point.

Legislator Visits on Campus

Meet with your local legislators when they visit your community college campus. This is a great chance for more face-time than Capital visits, so take the opportunity to show off what your college has to offer while slipping in some talking points on legislative issues.

Write a Letter to the Editor

Writing a letter to the editor for your local newspaper is a great way to generate support for and educate your community about community college issues in the Legislative Session. These letters are generally no more than about 250 words, so be sure to use the OCCA-provided talking points to stay on message.

Testify During a Legislative Hearing

OCCA will seek advocates to testify in committee hearings throughout the Legislative Session. If you're comfortable public speaking, this is a great opportunity to tell your story and reach legislative decision-makers. Testimonies are typically kept to 2 minutes.

Advocate on Social Media

Social media is a great opportunity to reach large groups of people to educate them about community college issues and generate support. Use the OCCA Advocacy Toolkit for the 2025 Legislative Session to use appropriate hashtags and messaging. Be sure to tag legislators to grab their attention.

Advocacy Toolkit - 2025 Legislative Session

The OCCA 2025 Legislative Session Advocacy Toolkit will be available starting in January 2025 on the OCCA website:

<https://www.occa17.com/advocacy-toolkit/>

Find talking points, informational one-pagers, testimony templates, social media guidance, lobbying tips, and more!

Questions about advocacy? Contact jwykoff@occa17.com