

## OCCA Update for College Boards – December 2024

### **4<sup>th</sup> Week Fall Enrollment Released**

Oregon's community colleges are celebrating a promising increase in enrollment as the fourth-week enrollment reports from the state's Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) revealed significant growth in overall headcount and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) enrollment at the majority of community colleges statewide. The 4<sup>th</sup> Week Fall Enrollment Report was released by the HECC on Nov. 15.

According to the HECC, the overall college headcount during the fourth week of the fall term was 4.3 percent higher this year than in 2023 (90,961 students). This is the same as the national trend in headcount enrollment for community colleges. The number of FTE students is also higher in 2024 at 21,897 students, a 7 percent increase over this time in 2023. Though statewide enrollment has continued on an upward trend since 2023, it remains lower than pre-pandemic levels. Headcount is 17.6 percent lower than in fall 2019, and FTE is 14.2 percent lower.

It's important to note, however, that the decrease in FTE for 2024 occurs at two of the smallest Oregon community colleges representing a total of just under 6 students, whereas statewide the increase to FTE was 1,437 students.

Read more about the 4<sup>th</sup> Week Enrollment Report on the OCCA website: <https://occa17.com/oregon-community-colleges-see-enrollment-surge/>.

### **Fall State Revenue Forecast**

State economists presented their quarterly economic and revenue forecast to legislators last week, showing state revenues up \$950 million from the previous forecast and triggering Oregon's unique kicker law. State economists predict Oregon will send roughly \$1.8 billion back to Oregon taxpayers based on the state's kicker law. Forecasters now expect \$28.1 billion in General Fund revenue during Oregon's current budget cycle. That's nearly \$3 billion more than the state's original forecast in 2023, and almost \$1 billion more than the most recent forecast update in August. [Click here](#) to read OCCA's full response to the economic forecast.

### **OCCA Board to Meet Dec. 6**

The OCCA Board of Directors will meet for their winter quarterly meeting on Friday, Dec. 6. The meeting will be hybrid, with those in-person attending at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham. The Board will consider approval of the OCCA 2025 Legislative Session Priorities, which sets the legislative platform for OCCA for the 2025 Legislative Session. In addition, the Board will approve the 2025-27 Legislative and Regulatory Policy Positions document, which guides OCCA staff in taking policy positions during legislative sessions for the next biennium. The Board will also hear the annual update on the Student Success Metrics (formerly referred to as Early Momentum Metrics). The full agenda can be found one week prior to the meeting at <https://occa17.com/occa-meetings/>.

Once the OCCA Board approves its 2025 Legislative Priorities, college boards will be asked to

support a resolution in support of those priorities. Stay tuned for a draft resolution. OCCA will also update its online [2025 Advocacy Toolkit](#) with an informational one-pager outlining these priorities.

### **Post-Election Concern: Protecting Undocumented Students**

With the recent election of Donald Trump as the next President, many colleges and universities across the country – including in Oregon – have expressed concerns about how they can protect undocumented students. President-elect Trump has on multiple occasions expressed his intentions to deport undocumented immigrants *en masse* and quash the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which protects immigrants brought to the U.S. as children from deportation and allows them to work and go to school in the U.S. *Inside Higher Ed* published an article Nov. 18 that outlines how leadership at some institutions across the country are responding, walking the fine line between preparing for potential policy changes while trying to avoid panic, and promising protections without stepping out of legal bounds or courting backlash. Check out the article by [clicking here](#).

### **HECC approves BSN programs at community colleges**

In November, six community colleges that are part of a consortium for Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs submitted a notice of application for the degrees to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Their applications are now in progress and are in Phase 2 of 3 in that process. HECC consideration of approval will be done at a future meeting. The six colleges that submitted applications for approval of a BSN program include Central Oregon CC, Chemeketa CC, Klamath CC, Linn-Benton CC, Oregon Coast CC, and Treasure Valley CC. Lane CC has also submitted an application, but is only in Phase 1 of the process.

### **Upcoming Events & Trainings**

OCCA has a great schedule of events set for 2024-25! [Click here](#) to see an overview (or visit our website, <https://occa17.com/calendar/>) and see below for details about events coming this fall that will benefit board members.

- **Lunch & Learn Webinars**

**2025 Legislative Priorities & Advocacy** – Due to the holidays, there will be no December Lunch & Learn webinar. The next Lunch & Learn webinar is set for January 30, 2025, at noon and will highlight OCCA’s 2025 Legislative Priorities and how community college stakeholders can prepare to be effective advocates. Register for this and other Lunch & Learn webinars on the OCCA website: <https://occa17.com/lunchandlearn/>.

- **December Interim Legislative Days – Dec. 10-12, 2024**

Legislators will meet for their final interim committee meetings Dec. 10-12 with an eye toward the 2025 Legislative Session, which begins on Jan 21. Committees hold informational hearings during these interim meetings on current topics and hear updates on previous legislation and potential legislation for the upcoming session. OCCA is planning to meet with numerous legislators during this time period, and looks forward to meeting with the new leadership, including:

- Sen. Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego) - Senate President
  - Sen. James Manning (D-Eugene) - Senate President Pro Tempore Designate
  - Sen. Kayse Jama (D-East Portland, Damascus, Boring) - Senate Majority Leader
  - Sen. Wlinsvey Campos (D-Aloha) - Senate Deputy Majority Leader
  - Sen. Sara Gelser Blouin (D-Albany, Corvallis, S. Salem & surrounding areas) - Senate Majority Whip
  - Sen. Lew Frederick (D-N/NE Portland) - Senate Majority Whip
  - Sen. Janeen Sollman (D-Hillsboro) - Senate Asst. Majority Leader
  - Sen. Khanh Pham (D-NE/SE Portland) - Senate Asst. Majority Leader
  - Rep. Julie Fahey (D-West Eugene & Veneta) - House Speaker Nominee
  - Rep. Ben Bowman (D-Tigard, Metzger & S. Beaverton) - Majority Leader
  - Rep. David Gomberg (D-Lincoln & Western Benton/Lane counties) - Speaker Pro Tempore Nominee
  - Rep. Andrea Valderrama (D-Outer E. Portland) - Majority Whip
  - Rep. Jason Kropf (D-Bend) - Deputy Majority Whip
  - Rep. Pam Marsh (D-S. Jackson County) - Asst. Majority Leader (Policy)
  - Rep. Anessa Hartman (D-Gladstone, Oregon City & N. Clackamas County) - Asst. Majority Leader (Political)
  - Rep. Hai Pham (D-S. Hillsboro & W. Beaverton) - Asst. Majority Leader (Professional Development)
  - Sen. Daniel Bonham (R-The Dalles) - Republican Leader
  - Sen. David Brock Smith (R-Port Orford) - Deputy Republican Leader
  - Sen. Cedric Hayden (R-Fall Creek) - Deputy Republican Leader
  - Sen. Dick Anderson (R-Lincoln City) - Deputy Republican Leader
  - Sen. Suzanne Weber (R-Tillamook) - Republican Whip
  - Rep. Christine Drazan (R-Canby) - House Republican Leader
  - Rep. Lucetta Elmer (R-McMinnville) - Deputy House Republican Leader
  - Rep. Virgle Osborne (R-Roseburg) - House Republican Whip
- **Higher Ed 101 – Dec. 12, 2024**

OCCA will participate in a “Higher Education 101” event for legislators in December organized by the Higher Education Advocacy Group – an informal coalition of Oregon community colleges, public universities and private non-profit colleges and universities. Topics covered will include:

    - Higher education structure and governance
    - Financial aid and state investment
    - Affordability and access (including supporting underrepresented students)
    - Economic impacts of post-secondary education
- **2025 OCCA Legislative Summit & Lobby Day – March 5-6, 2025**

The 2025 Legislative Summit & Lobby Day will take place March 5 and 6 at the Salem Convention Center. This important event is a great opportunity for college presidents,

board members, campus advocacy coordinators, students and other advocates to learn more about how proposed bills could impact community colleges during the Legislative Session. You'll hear from legislators, experienced community college advocates, and students. Learn advocacy best practices and important messaging as we work to support community colleges during the 2025 Legislative Session. The summit will take place March 5 at the Salem Convention Center, while March 6 is the day for colleges to meet with legislators at the Capitol.

- **2025 All-Oregon Academic Team Luncheon – April 18, 2025**

The AOAT Luncheon is set for April 18, 2025, at Chemeketa Community College's Eola Center in Salem to honor outstanding community college students. This honor recognizes high-achieving community college students who demonstrate academic excellence and intellectual rigor combined with leadership and service that extends their education beyond the classroom to benefit society. Be on the lookout in early spring for details on how to register to attend this inspiring event.

### **OCCA Digest e-newsletter**

The *OCCA Digest* is a monthly e-newsletter that highlights updates during the Legislative Session, important events, news, and announcements. It's a great way to stay connected with information important to community colleges in Oregon and learn how you can take action to support colleges and students. The newsletter is published the first Friday of each month, except for during a legislative session, at which time it becomes a weekly publication.

To sign up to receive this free e-newsletter, visit <https://occa17.com/resources/newsletter/> and click the "Sign Up" button. The OCCA Digest will come from OCCA Communications Director Casey White-Zollman at [casey@occa17.com](mailto:casey@occa17.com), so be sure to add her email to your contacts to ensure the email arrives in your inbox and not your spam folder.

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*Oregon Community College Association was founded in 1962 with the purpose of providing support to the colleges before policymakers and partners whose actions affect the wellbeing of community colleges across the state. OCCA represents the 17 publicly chartered community colleges and their locally elected board members. Leading with racial equity, we advocate, communicate, and collaborate to strengthen community colleges for the benefit of Oregonians, particularly those historically underserved or systemically marginalized in higher education. Have questions about OCCA and our work to support Oregon's community colleges? Contact [occa@occa17.com](mailto:occa@occa17.com).*