

## OCCA Update for College Boards – July 2024

### College Board Organizational Meetings

Community college boards are required by Oregon statute to hold an organizational meeting at the start of each fiscal year sometime after July 1. Unlike election years, in non-election years, there is no requirement for the organizational meeting to be held during the month of July.

At the organizational meeting, community college boards must meet for the purpose of organizing and electing a chair and a vice-chair (ORS 341.283). Other items for the July organizational meeting may include the following:

- Establishing dates and times of regular board meetings
- Appointing members to committees
- Adopting rules governing the conduct of board members and board proceedings
- Selecting the board's OCCA Representative.

### OCCA Board Representative Selection

OCCA Representatives from each college serve with the college president as members of the OCCA Board of Directors. The OCCA Representative brings the perspective of their member college's district board of education on issues of statewide concern to the Association and the Board of Directors. OCCA Bylaws delineate the duties of the OCCA Representatives as playing an active role in the activities of the Board of Directors, providing the local voice from their district boards of education to the Board of Directors on issues of statewide impact, and actively engaging their fellow district board of education members in supporting and promoting Association goals and priorities.

### 2024 OCCA Member Feedback Survey

We invite you and your fellow board members to participate in our [2024 Member Feedback Survey](#). This is your opportunity to share your insights and help us understand your perspectives – what is OCCA doing well and where can we improve as an organization as we look to the future. The survey will remain open until the close of business on July 17. Responses will remain strictly confidential; our primary goal is to gather collective insights to improve our services for you and all our members. The survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete, and you have the option to skip any questions you prefer not to answer.

To participate, please click on the survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/96VFP2B>

### OCCA 2024-25 Calendar

OCCA has released its calendar for the 2024-25 academic year. This calendar includes all events and trainings, OCCA board and standing committee meetings, and other important dates. [Click here](#) for the calendar or [visit the OCCA website](#).

### Upcoming Events & Trainings

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

- **Board Member Training: Save the Date!** – OCCA’s All Board Member Training is set for Saturday, September 7, at Chemeketa Community College’s Eola Center in Salem. Come learn how OCCA supports board members, presidents and colleges in Oregon, the future of OCCA and its services, and meet new OCCA Executive Director Dr. Abby Lee. You’ll also learn about how boards and colleges can hold constructive dialogues using civil discourse methods. Registration opens in July, but you can reserve your hotel room now at the Grand Hotel to secure the special OCCA rate! There will also be an opportunity for members to come to town early to network at a dinner. Visit the OCCA website, <https://occa17.com/board-training/> for details.
- **OCCA Conference: Call for Presentations** – OCCA is now accepting proposals for breakout sessions at the 2024 OCCA Annual Conference, set for November 6-8 at Salishan Coastal Lodge in Gleneden Beach. This year’s theme is “Charting a Course to the Future,” and OCCA is looking for presentations that share best practices, showcase a unique college program, or inform other stakeholders about an event or issue affecting your institution and/or community colleges on a broader level. All presentations should relate to the conference theme, as well as at least one of the following topic areas:
  - Innovation and the Future;
  - Equitable Pathways to Good Careers;
  - Board and College Commitment to Equity;
  - Student Achievement and Data;
  - Policy and Procedure; or
  - Community Engagement and Partnerships

*All proposals must be submitted by Friday, August 16, at 5:00 p.m. PST using the [online form](#). More details on the conference and proposal submissions can be found on the OCCA Annual Conference web page, <https://occa17.com/occa-annual-conference/>.*

- **Howard Cherry Awards: Call for Nominations** – OCCA is also now accepting nominations for the annual Howard Cherry Awards, held November 7 during the OCCA Annual Conference at Salishan Coastal Lodge. The Howard Cherry Awards are named for Dr. Howard Cherry, who was a lifelong advocate for education and community involvement. Nominations may be made in the following categories:
  - Outstanding Community College Advocate
  - Outstanding Community College Board Member
  - Outstanding Community College Administrator

*Nominations must be submitted no later than Friday, August 16, at 5:00 p.m. PST using the [online form](#). More details about the Howard Cherry Awards can be found on the OCCA website, <https://www.occa17.com/occa-annual-conference/>.*

- **Virtual Advocacy Training** – OCCA will host a virtual Advocacy Training on Thursday, October 10, for community college board members, presidents, Campus Advocacy Coordinators (CACs), students, and other college faculty, staff and stakeholders who will serve or are interested in serving as an advocate during the 2025 Legislative Session. In this free training, participants will learn how to be an effective advocate for community college budget and policy issues, the

various ways in which you can be an advocate, lobbying tips, important messaging for the Session, and the legislative process. Visit our website this fall for all the details, <https://occa17.com/occa-advocacy-training/>.

- **2024-2025 Lunch & Learn Webinars** – The OCCA Lunch & Learn Webinars were such a hit in 2023-24 that we’re bringing them back with a new lineup in 2024-25! These webinars – which are included in OCCA membership as a benefit – will continue to take place on the last Thursday of each month at noon starting in October (no December webinar due to the holidays). [Click here](#) for the schedule and stay tuned for registration details this fall!

### **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. 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).*