

## OCCA Update for College Boards – November 2024

### OCCA Annual Conference

The OCCA Annual Conference was held Nov. 6-8 at Salishan Coastal Lodge in Gleneden Beach, Ore., and nearly 160 community college board members, presidents, administrators, students and other stakeholders attended. OCCA would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend, share their expertise as a presenter, nominate a Howard Cherry Award winner, and/or network with colleagues from around the state. OCCA would also like to thank its Member Services Committee for their work in guiding the conference. Attendees are asked to please take the feedback survey using the link sent via email following the conference. Your feedback provides guidance for making improvements for future events.

OCCA would also like to thank Southwestern Oregon Community College for bringing their entire board to the conference, and to Rogue Community College for bringing students to attend the entire conference. We're also grateful to the Linn-Benton and Oregon Coast community college students who participated in the Student Voices Panel during the conference Welcome Dinner. Their perspectives were helpful and honest.

Congratulations to the 2024 Howard Cherry Award winners:

- Outstanding Administrator: **Dr. Lisa Skari**, President, Mt. Hood Community College
- Outstanding Board Member: **Chris Brown**, Board Member, Blue Mountain Community College
- Outstanding Advocate: **Senator Michael Dembrow** (D-Portland)

OCCA would also like to recognize the college Board members honored during the Howard Cherry Awards Banquet with Distinguished Service Awards for 2024-25. Thank you to the following individuals for your service:

- **Ron Pittman**, Chemeketa Community College – 20 years
- **Dave Jensen**, Klamath Community College – 16 years
- **Joe Krenowicz**, Central Oregon Community College – 12 years
- **Jackie Franke**, Chemeketa Community College – 12 years
- **Debbie Kilduff**, Oregon Coast Community College – 12 years
- **Ken Hector**, Chemeketa Community College – 12 years
- **Alison Nelson-Robertson**, Oregon Coast Community College – 12 years
- **Roger Findley**, Treasure Valley Community College – 12 years
- **Alan Unger**, Central Oregon Community College – 8 years
- **Kate Marquez**, Klamath Community College – 8 years
- **Stephen Crow**, Treasure Valley Community College – 8 years
- **Erika Skatvold**, Central Oregon Community College – 8 years
- **Diane McKeel**, Mt. Hood Community College – 8 years
- **David Littlejohn**, Umpqua Community College – 8 years
- **Rob Wheeler**, Clackamas Community College – 8 years
- **Annette Mattson**, Mt. Hood Community College – 8 years
- **Guy Kennerly**, Umpqua Community College – 8 years

- **Irene Konev**, Clackamas Community College – 8 years
- **Mary Jones**, Tillamook Bay Community College – 8 years
- **Steve Loosely**, Umpqua Community College – 8 years
- **Kim Morgan**, Columbia Gorge Community College – 8 years
- **Tamra Perman**, Tillamook Bay Community College – 8 years

Mark your calendars now for the 2025 OCCA Annual Conference, which will take place Nov. 5-7, 2025, at the Best Western Plus Hood River Inn in Hood River.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Week Enrollment Report Coming Soon**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) will release community college 4<sup>th</sup> week enrollment numbers on Nov. 15, and OCCA will soon afterwards send a press release out to media highlighting those figures. Stay tuned for details on the OCCA website!

#### **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. In addition, the Board will hear the annual update on the Student Success Metrics (aka, the EMMs). The full agenda can be found one week prior to the meeting at <https://occa17.com/occa-meetings/>.

#### **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**

***Learn about Local Budget Law*** - The next Lunch & Learn webinar is set for Nov. 21 at noon and will highlight what boards need to know about Local Budget Law. Attendees will learn directly from the Oregon Department of Revenue about local budget law and how your college can plan for budgeting responsibly. Register for this and other Lunch & Learn webinars on the OCCA website: <https://occa17.com/lunchandlearn/>.

Thank you to those who attended the Oct. 31 OCCA Lunch & Learn webinar, “OCCA 101.” This webinar provided an overview of all things OCCA, from what staff roles are to the services offered to how OCCA serves community colleges. Missed out? Feel free to check out the recording and use it as a tool for new board members and administrators; the link is 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 and community college partners will meet with legislators and staff. OCCA looks forward to updates on who is selected for chairman roles and leadership positions in the Legislature.

- **Higher Ed 101 – Dec. 12, 2024**

OCCA will participate in a “Higher Education 101” event for legislators this 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 will be 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



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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).*