

OCCA Board of Directors Meeting Takeaways – December 6, 2024

On Friday, December 6, 2024, the OCCA Board met in a hybrid fashion at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, with 19 members joining the second meeting of the 2024-25 year in person and another 24 virtually. Here are some takeaways from the meeting that can be shared with local community college board members.

Legislative Update/Preparation for 2025 Legislative Session

OCCA Deputy Director John Wykoff provided a legislative update, informing board members that he and Executive Director Abby Lee would be attending the interim December Legislative Days December 10-12 in Salem. They have numerous meetings with legislators scheduled, including those in leadership roles, to discuss OCCA's Legislative Priorities.

The Board approved the 2025-27 Legislative & Regulatory Policy Positions document, which guides OCCA staff on the association's position on a variety of topic areas for the next biennium. The final document comes as a recommendation from the OCCA Legislative Committee after the first reading at the October Board meeting. The document also had significant input from the OCCA DEI Committee. Its overarching principles include funding, student success, equity, workforce development, and collaboration.

Board members also approved the 2025 OCCA Legislative Priorities:

1. Increasing the Community College Support Fund (CCSF) to a total of \$920 million
2. Raising the cap on community college capital construction matching funds from \$8 million to \$14 million
3. Expanding funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) to a total of \$450 million
4. Securing resources for student basic needs (\$10 million in ongoing funds)
5. Funding support for colleges to transition to corequisite student support models (\$1 million in one-time funding)
6. Developing a policy bill for work toward Adult Reconnect to reengage learners with some college credit but no credential

Details on each of these priorities are available on an informational one-pager in OCCA's online Advocacy Toolkit: <https://www.occa17.com/advocacy-toolkit/>.

REQUEST FOR ACTION: College boards are also being asked to consider approval of a resolution in support of these priorities to show unity among the colleges as we enter the 2025 Legislative Session. Please see the attached draft resolution for your board's consideration.

Student Success Metrics

Each year the Student Success Center at OCCA works with institutional effectiveness researchers at Linn-Benton Community College to collect a set of common metrics from all 17 community colleges that gauge the progress of student success across the state. The metrics were formerly called Early Momentum Metrics (EMMs) and were first collected as part of the initial guided pathways work. In 2022, institutional researchers from Oregon community colleges

asked that adjustments to the metrics be made. The result was the elimination of metrics that were not useful to Oregon CCs along with the addition of College Now/dual enrollment students into the cohort examined. When the updated metrics were adopted, the name of the set was also updated to Student Success Metrics.

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

Workshop: Federal Perspective

David Baime with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) shared with the Board some national perspectives and highlighted some of the work AACC is doing to prepare for potential legislative changes to higher education. He provided some suggestions for how the OCCA Board can engage in this work with congressional leaders and other groups. Mr. Baime noted that there are currently still a lot of unknowns regarding higher education with the change in administration and incoming Cabinet designees, so the best advice is to educate Oregon's federal delegation on the community college agenda. AACC's top priority is to end taxation of Pell Grants and reform the American Opportunity Tax Credit, as well as support Workforce Pell Grant Authorization. AACC also opposes risk-sharing by colleges in the College Cost Reduction Act or similar legislation. [Click here](#) to learn more about AACC's federal legislative agenda.

Upcoming Events

OCCA Lunch & Learn Webinar – January 30, 2025

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/>.

OCCA Legislative Summit – March 5-6, 2025

The 2025 Legislative Summit & Lobby Day will take place March 5 and 6 in Salem. 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 will 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. More details will be available later this winter.

Have a question about any of this information or other community college issues? Want to learn how to get more involved with the OCCA Board? Contact OCCA staff at occa@occa17.com or visit www.occa17.com. Be sure to also follow us on Facebook @OregonCommunityCollegeAssociation and on Twitter @ORCommColleges and subscribe to the OCCA Digest e-newsletter on our website.