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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Community colleges to celebrate CTE Month in February

SALEM, Ore. – Throughout February, Oregon’s community colleges will spotlight career and technical education (CTE) programs in recognition of National CTE Month. Community colleges work for Oregon because these CTE programs are essential in equipping Oregonians with the skills needed to drive the state’s workforce and economy forward.

CTE programs at community colleges are tailored to address the specific needs of local communities, ensuring students gain the training necessary to meet the demands of regional industries. By offering targeted, hands-on education, Oregon’s community colleges are key to filling critical workforce gaps and supporting economic growth. According to a 2023 economic impact report from Lightcast, a national labor market analysis firm, Oregon’s community colleges generated \$9.6 billion for the state economy in Fiscal Year 2021-22, supporting 117,970 jobs — that’s one in every 22 jobs in Oregon.

From job training and certifications to degree programs and upskilling, community colleges provide diverse opportunities in fields such as advanced manufacturing, industrial engineering, healthcare/biomedical sciences, agriculture, natural resources, transportation, business management, technology, communications, and apprenticeships. These programs are developed in collaboration with local businesses and industries, ensuring they stay aligned with current job market needs and best practices.

In partnership with the state’s 17 community colleges, the Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) will mark National CTE Month with virtual campaigns aimed at raising awareness among legislators and the public about the importance of CTE programs in strengthening Oregon’s workforce and economy.

“National CTE Month is an important opportunity to highlight the vital role that career and technical education plays in preparing Oregonians for successful careers and fueling the growth of our state’s economy,” said Dr. Abby Lee, OCCA’s Executive Director. “Our community colleges are at the forefront of providing the training and skills that local industries need to thrive, and we are proud to celebrate the impact these programs have on both students and communities throughout Oregon.”

The community is encouraged to support their local college’s CTE programs by posting to social media using the hashtags #ORCommCollegeCTE, #WhyCTEMatters, #ORCommColleges, #CCsWorkForOregon.

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*The Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) represents the 17 publicly chartered community colleges and their locally elected board members in Oregon. Founded in 1962, OCCA’s purpose is to support the colleges before policy-makers and partners whose actions affect the well-being of community colleges across the state.*