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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCCA responds to latest revenue forecast

SALEM, Ore. – Following Wednesday morning’s state revenue forecast projecting a \$373 million shortfall in Oregon’s general fund due to federal tax changes, the Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) encourages lawmakers to stay the course on investing in Oregon’s 17 community colleges.

“In times of fiscal challenge, community colleges offer one of the most reliable returns on public investment,” said Abby Lee, Executive Director of OCCA. “We are ready to help Oregon adapt, by preparing students for in-demand careers, supporting local industries, and strengthening regional economies.”

OCCA urges state leaders to maintain momentum in funding community colleges, which serve over 200,000 students annually and play a vital role in meeting Oregon’s education and workforce goals. Community colleges across the state are seeing significant enrollment increases, and demand for a community college education is high, particularly in Career & Technical Education (CTE).

“As Oregon responds to shifting economic conditions, our colleges stand ready to deliver practical solutions because community colleges work for Oregon,” Lee added. “We look forward to working with the Legislature to ensure we can support student success and that colleges can remain strong, accessible, and responsive to the needs of our communities.”

OCCA will continue to advocate for policies that reinforce the essential role of community colleges in Oregon’s future. State economists will release the next forecast on Nov. 19, during Legislative Committee Days.

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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.