

OCCA Update for College Boards – August 2025

End of Session, Implementation Reports Available

The 2025 End of Session Report is now available on the [OCCA website](https://www.occa17.com). It highlights the wins, challenges, and everything in between that shaped our collective advocacy on behalf of Oregon's 17 community colleges. In late July, OCCA also released the 2025 Legislative Session Implementation Report, which offers colleges guidance on how and when to implement specific action related to bills passed during the 2025 Session. Both publications are now available on the [OCCA website](https://www.occa17.com).

Board Leadership & Governance Summit – September 5-6

Register now for the **revamped Community College Board Member Leadership & Governance Summit** (formerly the OCCA Board Member Training event) on Friday night and Saturday, his learning and networking opportunity – held at Chemeketa Community College's Eola Center in Salem – is for both new and experienced community college board members, as well as presidents. Hear directly from Oregon legislators, discover how trustees shape accreditation, learn hard-won lessons from experienced colleagues, and complete your public meeting law training — all in one energizing event.

Board leadership is more than attendance and oversight — it's about cultivating mission-driven progress. This summit is your opportunity to:

- Engage directly with policymakers shaping future post-secondary education and workforce training in Oregon;
- Gain practical wisdom from experienced colleagues;
- Understand how your leadership affects accreditation outcomes;
- Fulfill training requirements with confidence; and
- Deepen your impact with renewed clarity and connection.

The Summit will also fulfill the statewide certification requirements for board members related to Oregon's public meetings laws. In addition, OCCA has invited Senator Lew Frederick, chair of the Senate Committee on Education, and Representative Zach Hudson, chair of the House Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development, to offer candid perspectives on the role of elected board members in advancing Oregon's community colleges. Discover how their legislative viewpoints on college governance help shape education policy, funding priorities, and the long-term success of Oregon's community colleges.

Check out more details on OCCA's Board Member Leadership & Governance Summit [web page](#), and [register now](#)!

Last Call for OCCA Annual Conference Presentations

August 15 is the deadline to submit proposals for breakout sessions at the **2025 OCCA Annual Conference**, set for November 5-7 at the Best Western Plus Hood River Inn in beautiful Hood River. This year's theme is "Navigating the Winds of Opportunity," and OCCA is looking for

presentations that share best practices, showcase a unique college program, or inform attendees 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 & the Future;
- Equitable Pathways to Good Careers;
- Board & College Commitment to Equity;
- Student Achievement & Data;
- Policy & Procedure; or
- Community Engagement & Partnerships.

All proposals must be submitted by Friday, August 15, at 5:00 p.m. PST using this [online form](#). More details on the conference and proposal submissions can be found on the [OCCA Annual Conference web page](#).

In addition to the call for presentations, hotel rooms at the Best Western Plus Hood River Inn are now open – book early to secure your room! Early Bird registration for the conference will open Sept. 3. As always, check the [OCCA website](#) for the most current information.

Submit Howard Cherry Award Nominations by Aug. 15 Deadline

OCCA is now accepting nominations for the annual Howard Cherry Awards, held November 6 during the [OCCA Annual Conference](#) at the Best Western Plus Hood River Inn in Hood River. The Howard Cherry Awards are named for Dr. Howard Cherry, who was a lifelong advocate for education and community involvement. These awards honor those who have made significant contributions to their college or to community colleges statewide in the following categories:

- Outstanding Community College Advocate;
- Outstanding Community College Board Member; and
- Outstanding Community College Administrator.

Nominations must be submitted no later than Friday, August 15, at 5:00 p.m. PST using this [online form](#). For more information about the Howard Cherry Awards, [click here](#).

OCCA Committee Interest Survey

Are you or your fellow board members interested in serving on an OCCA standing committee? Board member involvement in OCCA committees helps to shape OCCA's priorities and provide recommendations to the full OCCA Board of Directors on a variety of issues. While some committee members are position-based (i.e., the OCCA Board Treasurer on the Budget Committee), most are open to any community college board member, not just OCCA Representatives, to participate. OCCA has developed a survey to gauge interest in committee participation. The OCCA President will recommend committee appointments to the OCCA Board for consideration during its October meeting. Current committees and membership are available on the [OCCA website](#). Board members should be on the lookout in their email inboxes for an

invitation to participate in the Committee Interest Survey soon.

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 is 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 Thursday of each month, *except during a legislative session, at which time it becomes a weekly publication that comes out on Thursdays.*

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, 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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The 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.