

OCCA Update for College Boards – September 2025

OCCA Committee Interest Survey

OCCA invites community college board members to **express their interest** in serving on an OCCA committee for 2025–26. These opportunities help inform OCCA’s work and support the success of Oregon’s community colleges. OCCA offers several committees for locally elected community college board members, OCCA representatives, presidents, and college staff to get involved in, contribute to, and connect with peers across the state. Whether you’re already familiar with OCCA’s committees or learning about them for the first time, this is your opportunity to share your interests for the upcoming year.

Please complete our short interest survey by Wednesday, September 3:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VKF5PGZ>.

The survey includes brief descriptions and membership eligibility for each committee. Space is limited, so placement is not guaranteed. *All interested individuals — including current members — must complete the survey for consideration.* In accordance with OCCA bylaws, the OCCA President will make committee recommendations this fall, subject to approval by the full OCCA Board at its October meeting. If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to OCCA Operations Director Katie Archambault at katie@occa17.com or 503-399-9912.

Coming Soon: OCCA 2025 State of the Association Report

OCCA will release its 2025 State of the Association Report in early September. This annual publication highlights OCCA’s work to support community colleges, board members, presidents and students during the 2024-25 academic year. It includes an overview of OCCA’s work in advocacy during the 2025 Legislative Session, student success, board development, partnerships, and other association activities throughout the year. Look for a link to the report in your email inboxes and on the OCCA website soon!

Board Leadership & Governance Summit

The OCCA Board Leadership & Governance Summit (formerly the OCCA Board Member Training event) is set to take place on September 5-6 at Chemeketa Community College’s Eola Center in Salem. This learning and networking opportunity is for both new and experienced community college board members, as well as presidents. Sept. 5 will feature a networking dinner, while Sept. 6 will dive into the Summit. It will feature a Public Meetings Law training from OCCA Senior Policy Advisor & General Counsel Karen Smith that meets the new Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) requirements for board members. Another highlight is a session by Selena Grace, President of the Northwest Commission on Colleges & Universities (NWCCU), that explores how board members can contribute meaningfully to the accreditation process by staying focused on strategy, mission, and oversight. There **41** people registered for the event. Check out more details on OCCA’s Board Member Leadership & Governance Summit [web page](#).

OCCA is committed to providing the public meetings law training now required for board members by OGEC and will have another opportunity for board members to participate and meet compliance if they do not attend the Summit.

OCCA Executive Committee to Hold Annual Retreat

The OCCA Executive Committee will meet for its annual retreat on Friday, September 5. During the retreat, the Executive Committee will review some recommended board policy changes and standing committee membership structure.

OCCA Conference Registration Opens in September

Mark your calendars for the **2025 OCCA Annual Conference**, set for November 5-7 at the Best Western Plus Hood River Inn in the majestic Columbia River Gorge. This year's theme is "Navigating the Winds of Opportunity," and keynote speakers will be announced soon. 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](https://www.occa17.com) for the most current information.

OCCA Board to Meet October 3 for First Meeting of 2025-26

The OCCA Board of Directors will meet for the first time for the 2025-26 year on Friday, October 3, at Clackamas Community College's Harmony campus in Milwaukie, with a virtual option. During this meeting, the Board will approve committee membership recommendations, hear about the OCCA State of the Association Report, learn about advocacy plans for the interim and 2026 short Legislative Session, and welcome new OCCA Board Representatives. The agenda will be posted to the OCCA website (<https://occa17.com/occa-meetings/>) a week prior to the meeting.

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



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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.