

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION



A year of change & progress



Austin Folnag
OCCA Board
President
2024-2025

This past year has been a time of meaningful progress and forward momentum for the Oregon Community College Association. With new leadership in place, we began 2025 with renewed energy and a strong focus on legislative and advocacy efforts aimed at supporting college board members – both those newly elected and those with years of dedicated service – as well as college leaders, faculty, staff, students and stakeholders.



Abby Lee, PhD
OCCA Executive
Director

Throughout the year, OCCA continued to advance its mission in significant ways, from public policy and advocacy to board development, student success initiatives, and impactful statewide partnerships. We remain fully committed to the goals outlined in our 2021–2027 Strategic Priorities and Objectives, most recently updated in October 2023.

Among this year's milestones was the introduction of the new OCCA Values Statement, which affirms the principles that guide our work and strengthen our statewide alignment. At the Capitol, we ensured Oregon's 17 community colleges spoke with a unified voice, advocated for legislation to support students' basic needs and enhances the state's workforce through greater investment in community colleges. The Board's reaffirmation of the updated OCCA Equity Call to Action underscored our commitment to equity and provided a clear direction for the work ahead.

As we celebrate 63 years of statewide collaboration and leadership, we take pride in the enduring solidarity of Oregon's community colleges. That strength is rooted in you – our members – and in your dedication, insight, and shared vision.

The state of the Oregon Community College Association is strong. As we look ahead, we are committed to showing what is possible when we lead together with shared purpose, strong partnerships, and an unwavering commitment to student success across Oregon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Austin Folnag'.

Austin Folnag
2024-25 OCCA Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abby Lee'.

Dr. Abby Lee
OCCA Executive Director

Our Mission

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.

Our Vision

We support vibrant and responsive community colleges that empower diverse communities through workforce training and education. We are a collective voice, advocating for policies that build a resilient and prosperous future for all.

Our Values

- **Student Success & Advocacy** - Elevating the voice of Oregon's community colleges while advancing access, achievement and lifelong learning.
- **Equity** - Championing inclusivity and ensuring all students have the opportunity to succeed.
- **Collaboration & Local Responsiveness** - Partnering across colleges and communities to honor the unique strengths and needs of each institution while supporting a shared vision.
- **Accountability** - Upholding honesty, transparency and responsibility to build trust and ensure meaningful outcomes.
- **Innovation** - Embracing forward-looking and sustainable practices to address evolving challenges.

Meet Our Staff



**Abby
Lee, PhD**
Executive
Director



**John
Wykoff**
Deputy
Director



**Karen
Smith, JD**
General Counsel &
Senior Policy Advisor



**Elizabeth
Cox Brand, PhD**
Director, Student
Success Center



**Katie
Archambault, MPP**
Operations
Director



**Casey
White-Zollman**
Communications
Director



**Laura
Crook, MA**
Executive Support
Specialist

OCCA staff bring deep expertise and decades of combined experience in community college policy, governance, and advocacy. They provide strategic, year-round support to Oregon's 17 community colleges and are known for their swift responsiveness to institutional needs. Beyond day-to-day support, the team leads with authority on statewide and federal higher education issues — providing guidance, anticipating trends, and driving initiatives that strengthen Oregon's community college system.

Advocacy



Priority 1: Advocate to secure sufficient and stable state funding & advance policies that support positive student-centered outcomes.

Holding Tight & Building Momentum

Legislative Advocacy

During the 2025 Legislative Session, OCCA led a robust and collaborative advocacy campaign to secure critical investments in Oregon's community colleges and advance six priorities identified by the OCCA Legislative Committee and approved by the OCCA Board. Despite a challenging fiscal and political environment, OCCA's strategic engagement yielded several key wins and advanced the visibility of community colleges as central to Oregon's education and economic growth.

OCCA Board Approved Legislative Priorities



Community College Funding

OCCA advocated for \$920 million for the Community College Support Fund (CCSF) to meet the actual current service level needs of Oregon's 17 community colleges. The Legislature ultimately approved \$854.4 million – reflecting the state's "Current Service Level" (CSL) estimate and a 6.9% increase from the previous biennium – but this amount still fell short of what colleges need to keep pace with inflation, rising personnel costs, and enrollment growth. While the state CSL is not sufficient, several other areas of the state budget, including corrections and early learning, were funded at levels even further below their state estimated CSL.



Capital Construction

OCCA successfully secured full funding for all five proposed community college capital projects in SB 5505. These included three new projects – one each at Clackamas, Klamath, and Mt. Hood community colleges, as well as reauthorization for two previously approved projects at Clatsop and Southwestern Oregon community colleges. These investments will expand facilities for agriculture, cosmetology management, maritime science, welding, and general instruction, enhancing capacity to meet regional workforce needs.

Advocacy



Raising the Capital Project Cap

A longstanding priority for community colleges, HB 3635 aimed to **raise the cap on Article XI-G bond-funded projects** from \$8 million to \$14.25 million, reflecting the inflation increases in construction costs over the last two decades – when the cap was originally set. While the stand-alone bill did not pass, OCCA worked with legislative champions to include amended language into the final capital construction bill (SB 5505). This charge **increases the cap to \$12 million for projects requested after July 1, 2025**, marking meaningful progress toward parity with rising construction costs.



Oregon Opportunity Grant

OCCA supported increasing the Oregon Opportunity Grant – the state's primary need-based financial aid program – to \$450 million, a 50 percent increase. While this proposal did not move forward, legislators pointed to the historic 50 percent increase made in 2023, which significantly broadened student access, as a recent milestone. Consequently, **the grant received a routine inflationary adjustment in 2025, but no further funding was prioritized this cycle.**



Student Basic Needs

OCCA strongly supported HB 3182 to provide \$10 million in ongoing funding for student basic needs programming. While HB 3182 did not pass as a stand-alone bill, **the Legislature included funding for benefits navigators** within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) budget (HB 5525), preserving critical support services for students experiencing housing, food, and financial insecurity.



Corequisite Training Funding

To support community colleges in transitioning from traditional developmental education to corequisite models, OCCA sought \$1 million in one-time funds for targeted faculty training. However, in a challenging 2025 fiscal environment where few new investments were approved, this request was not funded. **OCCA remains committed to identifying alternative funding sources** – whether through agency partnerships, grant opportunities, or future legislative sessions – to ensure faculty have the resources needed to deliver high-impact, student-ready instruction.

Advocacy



Adult Reconnect Policy Development

OCCA partnered with legislators and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to advance a statewide Adult Reconnect initiative, focused on re-engaging adult learners with some college credit but no degree. Two bills addressed the concept: HB 3892, drafted with Rep. Ricki Ruiz, called for a HECC-led work group; and HB 2686, also carried by Rep. Ruiz, proposed funding to HECC for a grant to an organization that manages strategies to re-enroll stopped-out students. While neither bill advanced beyond Ways and Means, **both efforts raised visibility, strengthened legislative support, and laid important groundwork for continued advocacy.**

Advocacy Tools



Direct Legislative Advocacy

MESSAGING ON PRIORITIES

Board members, advocates, and staff **engaged with legislators** through **direct meetings, written and virtual testimonies, and in-person presentations** at several informational hearings on the budget, adult reconnect programs, and capital construction projects.



Advocacy Toolkit

ADVOCACY & MESSAGING TOOLS

OCCA once again refined the Advocacy Toolkit with **resources for board members and advocates** to use during the Legislative Session. This **online kit** included informational one-pagers, talking points, testimony and letter to the editor templates, social media guidance, lobbying tips, and more.



Virtual CTE Month

FEBRUARY 2025

OCCA worked with college marketing and public relations staff and Campus Advocacy Coordinators (CACs) to **highlight and promote college CTE programs and career pathways** during National Community College CTE Month on social media platforms and websites. A CTE Showcase was also held during the OCCA Legislative Summit in March to highlight the variety of programs across the state.



Community College Day of Action

BUDGET MESSAGING

279 advocates sent **307** emails to **60** legislators about the **need for \$920 million** in the Community College Support Fund during a One-Click Politics campaign on May 13.

Advocacy



One Click Politics Campaigns

CONSISTENT MESSAGING

This grassroots advocacy platform allowed advocates to **easily send emails** to their local legislators that were crafted by OCCA to **keep messages consistent**. One Click campaigns in 2024-25 included CTE Month (February), Oppose SB 478 (Feb. 7), Oregon Opportunity Grant Lobby Day (Feb. 13), Federal Funding (March 25), Basic Needs Lobby Day (May 5), and the Community College Day of Action (May 9).



Ways & Means Budget Presentation

OCCA staff put together a **comprehensive presentation on the colleges' budget request** that Deputy Director John Wykoff presented to the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education in April. The presentation included background on the budget, current fiscal needs at the colleges, and **testimonies from students, presidents, board members, faculty, staff, and community partners**. Committee members responded well to both the presentation's format and depth of information provided, reflecting strong engagement. They asked student speakers numerous follow-up questions, which highlighted their interest.



Ways & Means Roadshows

OCCA worked with Campus Advocacy Coordinators (CACs) at each college to prepare for and have college representatives attend one of the Joint Ways & Means Committee public hearing roadshows around the state to **advocate for the CCSF budget request**. **Nearly all 17 colleges were represented** during at least one of the roadshows.



Marina Frolov, a student at Clackamas Community College, testifies during the budget presentation alongside her young son.

Positive Media Coverage

Throughout the course of the year, OCCA received a variety of positive coverage in statewide media, as well as national online media. Highlights included stories related to:

- All-Oregon Academic Team students from colleges around the state
- Howard Cherry Award recipients
- The fall enrollment surge at the colleges
- Efforts by the colleges to support adult learners
- Corequisite education models



Be sure to check out the news coverage on OCCA's website: <https://occa17.com/resources/occa-news/>

Advocacy

Federal Advocacy & Response

Following President Trump's inauguration and the rapid rollout of executive orders, Dear Colleague letters, and federal policy shifts, **OCCA has been closely monitoring and assessing the impact on Oregon's community colleges and their students.** In partnership with national organizations including the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), OCCA facilitated:

- A presentation from AACC's David Baime, who provided a national perspective during the December OCCA board meeting, outlining AACC's federal engagement and offering guidance on how OCCA board members can contribute to ongoing advocacy.
- A presentation by ACCT's Carrie Warick-Smith, who presented to the board in February to share ACCT's legislative priorities and insights on federal issues facing community colleges and again during an OCCA Lunch & Learn in May on federal issues.



To support Oregon colleges through these changes, OCCA:

- Hosted weekly — then monthly — Zoom meetings for college leaders to exchange updates and discuss operational impacts.
- Created a “pocket card” for campus staff with sample language aligned with Oregon's sanctuary promise regarding immigration enforcement.
- Shared regular federal policy updates in the OCCA Digest.
- Created a page on OCCA's website dedicated to resources for college staff and students regarding undocumented & DACA student resources.

Advocacy

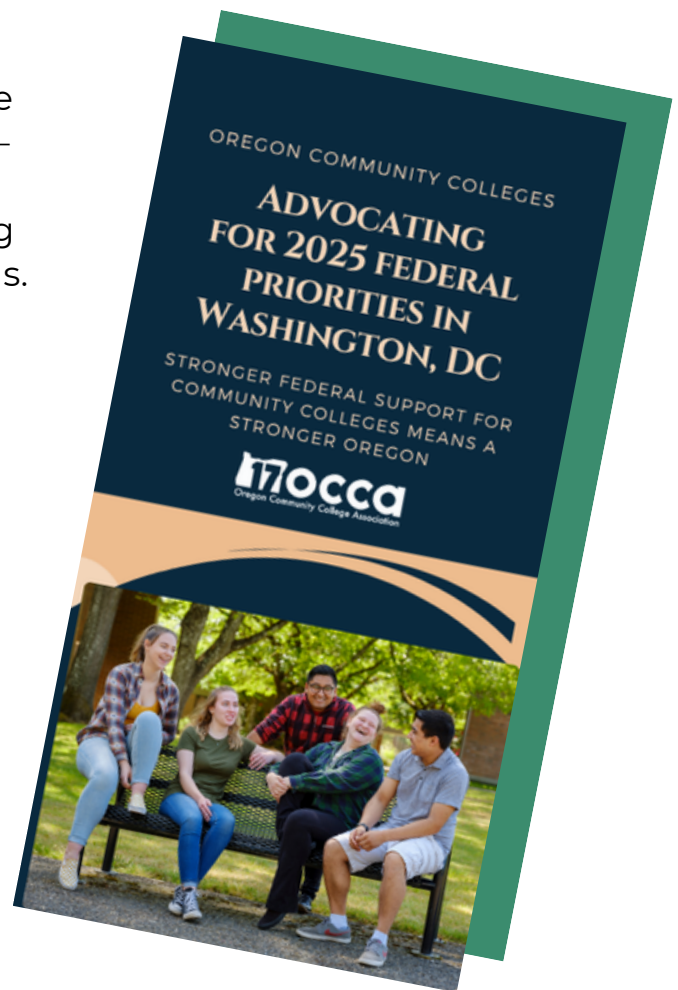
Federal Advocacy & Response

In early February 2025, OCCA led Oregon's engagement at the **ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C.**, bringing leaders from 11 community colleges to advocate with members of the Oregon Congressional delegation. Focus areas included **short-term Pell Grants, food and housing insecurity, Pell tax relief, and the impact of recent Executive Orders on higher education.**

To **strengthen messaging**, OCCA introduced a new leave-behind brochure **linking federal policy to local impact** — reinforcing its commitment to shaping national conversations and championing Oregon's community colleges at all levels.



Oregon community college representatives attend the National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., in February 2025.



Student Success



Priority 1: Advocate to secure sufficient and stable state funding & advance policies that support positive student-centered outcomes.

Oregon community colleges have a long history of implementing student success-focused initiatives and promising practices. The Student Success Center (SSC), housed at OCCA, **leads transformative change** by translating emerging trends, research, and innovative practices to cultivate student-ready colleges; communicating a statewide vision of student success; and inspiring cultural change on campuses to improve student outcomes and close opportunity gaps. **Over the past year, the SSC has continued to lead statewide efforts in student success, driving key initiatives and contributing tangible expertise to advance outcomes across Oregon's community colleges.** Here are the highlights:

Elevating Student Voices

Bringing to light the voices of students and their needs is one of the important roles the SSC plays in supporting students and colleges. OCCA hosted a Lunch & Learn in April featuring the Oregon Community College Student Association (OCCSA), with the conversation led by SSC Director Dr. Elizabeth Cox Brand. Student leaders from across Oregon **shared personal**

perspectives on advocacy, access, and equity. The session highlighted OCCA's renewed partnership with OCCSA and the **growing momentum to elevate student voices statewide.**

Dr. Cox Brand also facilitated the popular **Student Voices Panel at the OCCA Annual Conference** in November 2024, giving attendees the opportunity to hear directly from students about their success and struggles. This is an engaging session that conference participants look forward to each year.



SSC Director Dr. Elizabeth Cox Brand (right) facilitates the Student Voices Panel at the OCCA Annual Conference in November 2024.

Student Success



Corequisite Education

Clatsop Community College and OCCA's SSC Director, Dr. Elizabeth Cox Brand, were **featured in an August 2024 article in the national publication *Washington Monthly***, highlighting the transformation of remedial education through the use of corequisite supports. Another article in a November 2024 edition of the ***Portland Business Journal*** spotlighted the use of corequisites. These articles demonstrate how Oregon and the work of the SSC at OCCA are **leading the charge in corequisite education to better serve students**. Read the articles on OCCA's website: <https://occa17.com/resources/occa-news/>



Adult Learner Reconnect

Adult Reconnect programs took center stage during a May 6 informational hearing in the **House Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development**, featuring a presentation by SSC Director Dr. Cox Brand.

Dr. Cox Brand outlined Oregon's efforts to **reengage adult learners with previous college experience but no credential, emphasizing the need for targeted support to help these students complete their educational journeys**. To broaden the discussion, she welcomed colleagues from the Belk Center for Community College Leadership & Research to share insights from North Carolina's successful Adult Reconnect initiatives, offering strategies relevant to Oregon's evolving landscape.

OCCA will continue to advocate for best practices that connect this work to policy efforts — ensuring more Oregonians have pathways to return, complete, and thrive in community college settings.



SSC Director Dr. Elizabeth Cox Brand speaks about Adult Learner Reconnect programs during an informational hearing before the House Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development in May.

Did You Know?

The SSC also facilitates work as liaison to the HECC Direct Admissions workgroup and the HECC Transfer Council.

Student Success



Oregon Transfer Pathways to the Liberal Arts

Since 2021, OCCA has **partnered with the Oregon Alliance of Independent Colleges and Universities (OAICU)** on a grant-funded initiative — Oregon Transfer Pathways to the Liberal Arts (OTP-LA) — to **strengthen transfer routes from community colleges to private liberal arts institutions**. All 17 Oregon community colleges and nine OAICU member campuses are actively engaged in the project, which supports Oregon's broader goal of **creating seamless and equitable higher education pathways**.

On April 11, nearly 70 representatives from participating institutions gathered in Salem to assess progress and explore next steps. Key initiatives discussed included:

- Guaranteed admission for AA degree or Oregon Transfer Module completers with sophomore standing
- Statewide transfer pathways in mathematics, English, biology, and psychology
- Reverse transfer policies to award associate degrees after students transfer and earn additional credits at their new institution

SSC Director Dr. Cox Brand, who also serves as a liaison to OAICU for the project, attended and supported the planning and facilitation of the convening.



Guided Pathways Implementation

On May 9, leaders from 13 Oregon community colleges met in Portland to **advance Guided Pathways work**. Dr. Hana Lahr (Community College Research Center) previewed a forthcoming follow-up to Redesigning America's Community Colleges, and Dr. Cox Brand introduced statewide metrics to frame the day. College teams reviewed past trainings, assessed campus progress, and set short- and long-term priorities. **The SSC intends to hold more convenings focused on pathways implementation over the coming biennium.**



Leaders from 13 Oregon community colleges convened in Portland in May to discuss Guided Pathways implementations.

Board Development



Priority 2: Empower stakeholders & provide leadership to effectively represent Oregon's community colleges with a collective voice.

Advancing Opportunities for Board Training & Development

Advancing opportunities for board training and development is one of the OCCA Board's priority goals. By equipping board members, college leaders, and other partners with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need, OCCA ensures that Oregon's community colleges are effectively represented with a unified, collective voice. Over the past year, OCCA's work to advance board education and professional development has included a variety of targeted events and learning opportunities, including:



All Board Member Training - September 2024

In September, OCCA hosted its annual Board Member Training at Chemeketa Community College's Eola Center in Salem, bringing together trustees and presidents from across Oregon for a day of focused professional development. The training covered updates to Oregon's public meeting laws, strategies for addressing the enrollment cliff, and OCCA's 2025 legislative priorities. Participants also examined the board's role in effective governance.



2024-25 OCCA Board President Austin Folnagy speaks during the Board Member Training.

Highlights included a session with Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy (now-retired President, Northwest Commission on Colleges & Universities) on accreditation and governance standards, and an interactive workshop on civil discourse led by Essential Partners, offering tools for navigating disagreement constructively. Additionally, OCCA's Karen Smith led a session that focused on evolving public meeting laws and new requirements around video recording and public access.

This training reflects OCCA's ongoing commitment to strengthening board leadership and supporting informed, collaborative governance across Oregon's community colleges.

Board Development



OCCA Annual Conference - November 2024

The 2024 OCCA Annual Conference at Salishan Coastal Lodge brought together over 150 community college leaders from across Oregon for three days of networking, professional development, and celebration.

Centered on the theme “**Charting a Course to the Future**,” the event featured keynotes and breakout sessions on belonging, innovation, and practical strategies for navigating higher education’s evolving landscape. Topics included AI, shared governance, Competency Based Education, shared services, and cross-institutional collaboration.

Highlights included a panel of students from Linn-Benton and Oregon Coast Community Colleges and the Howard Cherry Awards Banquet, which honored:

- **Senator Michael Dembrow**
Outstanding Advocate
- **Chris Brown (Blue Mountain CC)**
Outstanding Board Member
- **Dr. Lisa Skari (Mt. Hood CC)**
Outstanding Administrator
- **22 board members** – Dedicated Service Awards (8+ years of service)



Mt. Hood Community College Board Chair Andrew Speer honors MHCC President Dr. Lisa Skari with the Howard Cherry Outstanding Administrator Award.

Did You Know?

The 2025 OCCA Annual Conference is set for Nov. 5-7 in Hood River. Mark your calendars!

Board Development



Legislative Summit - March 2025

The 2025 OCCA Legislative Summit, held March 5–6 in Salem, brought together college presidents, trustees, advocacy coordinators, students, and community college supporters for two days of strategic engagement and advocacy.

On March 5, attendees gathered at the Salem Convention Center for sessions featuring legislators, policy experts, and student leaders. Topics included legislative priorities, advocacy strategies, and the impact of state policy on Oregon's community colleges. The day concluded with a reception and Career & Technical Education (CTE) showcase, featuring wine from Chemeketa and Umpqua's viticulture programs and hors d'oeuvres prepared by Southwestern Oregon's culinary students. All 17 colleges had programs represented at the event, with demonstrations and equipment



Members of Clatsop Community College's maritime science program show off a raft at the CTE Showcase



Members of the Treasure Valley Community College Board and President Dr. Dana Young (fourth from left) pose with Rep. Bobby Levy (R-Echo; third from right) in front of the TVCC CTE Showcase display.

on display for legislators to learn about the variety of CTE programs at Oregon's community colleges.

March 6 was a dedicated Lobby Day, with participants meeting directly with legislators at the Oregon State Capitol to advocate for community college priorities. A hospitality room at the OCCA office supported attendees throughout the day.

The Summit reinforced OCCA's commitment to informed, collaborative advocacy and highlighted the vital role of community colleges in shaping Oregon's future.

Board Development



Lunch & Learn Webinar Series - Monthly

The OCCA Lunch & Learn Webinar Series returned this year with timely, accessible professional development for community college board members. Developed with the Member Services Committee, topics included:

- Intro to OCCA
- Local Budget Law
- 2025 Legislative Priorities
- Artificial Intelligence
- Elevating Student Voices
- Federal Update with ACCT
- Public Meeting Law & Board Basics

Featuring OCCA staff and guest experts, the webinars delivered practical, high-quality content. Sessions remain available on-demand to support informed governance and effective onboarding: occa17.com/lunchandlearn.

We look forward to continuing the series in 2025–26 and encourage members to revisit or share past sessions.



College board members, presidents and OCCA celebrate how “Community Colleges WORK for Oregon” at the 2025 OCCA Legislative Summit.

Partnerships



Priority 1: Advocate to secure sufficient and stable state funding & advance policies that support positive student-centered outcomes.

Priority 2: Empower stakeholders & provide leadership to effectively represent Oregon's community colleges with a collective voice.

Higher Education Partnerships

OCCA has continued to strengthen its collaboration and partnership opportunities with the four-year public and private universities in Oregon. OCCA regularly participates in monthly **Higher Education Heroes of Oregon (HEHO)** meeting – a coalition of higher education government relations staff who coordinate on common issues that impact colleges, universities and students.

HEHO partnered for advocacy on several bills in the 2025 Legislative Session, including two regarding student basic needs and the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

OCCA also continued to strengthen its **partnership with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)** through regular meetings with leadership, consistent attendance at HECC Commission meetings, and presentations to the commissioners to educate them on community college issues such as adult learners and



Members of HEHO – including OCCA Deputy Director John Wykoff (fourth from left) and OCCA Executive Director Abby Lee (second from right) – meet with Rep. Zach Hudson (D-Troutdale, center) during Legislative Days in September 2024.

corequisite education. HECC Commissioner Gayle Yamasaki even attended the 2024 OCCA Annual Conference.

Partnerships

All-Oregon Academic Team Luncheon - April 2025

OCCA's ongoing partnership with Oregon's public and private universities remains vital in supporting student transitions from community colleges to four-year institutions. A key highlight this year was the All-Oregon Academic Team (AOAT) Luncheon, where **55 outstanding students representing all 17 community colleges** were honored.

State Representative Ricki Ruiz (D-Gresham) delivered an inspiring keynote address, encouraging students to pursue their goals with confidence. Four students shared powerful personal stories of resilience and determination in overcoming obstacles to achieve academic success. Fifteen Oregon colleges and universities supported these scholars by offering transfer scholarships.



Members of the 2025 All-Oregon Academic Team (AOAT) following the April 18 Luncheon in Salem.



Treasure Valley CC AOAT student – and featured student speaker – Robert Shingleton with his daughter at the event.



Rep. Ricki Ruiz (D-Gresham) speaks at the AOAT Luncheon.

Did You Know?

The AOAT honors students in both transfer and Career-Technical Education (CTE) programs.

Association Activities



Priority 3: Advance the association by implementing best practices for effective and efficient operations with a focus on continuous improvement.

Board Policy & Procedure Program

OCCA's **board policy subscription program grew this year**, and now **serves 14 colleges**. The association continues to work closely with the Community College League of California to **ensure policies and procedures remain compliant with federal and state laws**. The program is hosted on OCCA's website through a subscriber login, allowing subscribers to access and download needed policies at any time.

Highlights include:

- An annual workshop held prior to the OCCA Annual Conference in November, attended by 20 trustees and college staff. Topics included foundational governance practices, implementation tools, and a review of the latest legal updates.
- Two legal updates were issued: the fall edition and a special bulletin addressing the reinstatement of the 2020 federal Title IX regulations.

College Visits & Collaboration



OCCA Executive Director Dr. Abby Lee made it her goal to **visit many of the colleges** during her first year on the job in 2024-25. Throughout the year, Dr. Lee attended college board meetings, toured campuses, met with staff and attended college events to make sure OCCA connected on a personal level with institutions and their boards. Dr. Lee also attended several conferences and meetings alongside college leaders, including the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) **National Leadership Congress** in Seattle in October 2024.

OCCA Executive Director Abby Lee (far left), Linn-Benton CC President Lisa Avery and LBCC Board Members, along with Sasquatch, at the ACCT National Leadership Congress in Seattle in October.

Association Activities

Board Communications

OCCA provides information to the Board through a variety of communications throughout the year. Below is a summary of those types of communications*.



- **OCCA Digest:** If you haven't already, make sure to sign up to receive the OCCA *Digest* e-newsletter. This electronic publication is published monthly and then switches to weekly editions during a legislative session. The *Digest* provides timely updates on what's happening in the current legislative session, community college news and information, a calendar of events, announcements, and other important information for community college board members, administrators, staff and stakeholders. Sign up at <https://www.occa17.com/>.
- **Monthly Board Representative Update:** OCCA sends talking points via email to OCCA Board Representatives at the end of each month. Board Representatives are then able to utilize these talking points during their respective college board meetings to help keep other board members at their institutions apprised of OCCA events and learning opportunities, OCCA and legislative updates, important community college information, and more.
- **OCCA Board Meeting Recaps:** OCCA emails board members a recap of highlights from the quarterly OCCA Board meetings. These recaps are typically sent to members within one week following the Board meeting.
- **OCCA Legislative Update Calls:** During legislative sessions, OCCA hosts weekly Zoom meetings for Board members, presidents, administrators and government relations staff (i.e., Campus Advocacy Coordinators) to keep everyone up to speed on the latest developments and provide updates on bills OCCA is tracking.
- **Email Communications:** OCCA also sends emails to keep Board members updated on any important information related to OCCA business, upcoming events and learning opportunities, or community college issues. These emails can also include communications regarding standing OCCA committees on which members serve.
- **OCCA Website:** OCCA regularly updates its website with information important to board members, including board and committee meeting agendas, event/learning opportunity information, a calendar of events, an advocacy toolkit, contact information, and other helpful board member resources. The website can be found at <https://www.occa17.com/>.

**Note: If you are not receiving these communications, please contact OCCA to make sure we have an accurate email on file, occa@occa17.com.*

Board of Directors 2024-2025

OCCA President

Austin Fohnagy (Lane CC)

OCCA Vice President

Andrew Speer (Mt. Hood CC)

Blue Mountain Community College

Dr. Mark Browning, President

Chris Brown, Board Member

Central Oregon Community College

Dr. Laurie Chesley, President

Erin Merz, Board Member

Chemeketa Community College

Dr. Jessica Howard, President

Ken Hector, Board Member

Clackamas Community College

Dr. Tim Cook, President

Jane Reid, Board Member

Clatsop Community College

Jerrold Hogue, President

Lloyd Mueller, Board Member

Columbia Gorge Community College

Dr. Kenneth Lawson, President

Kim Morgan, Board Member

Klamath Community College

Dr. Roberto Gutierrez, President

Kate Marquez, Board Member

Lane Community College

Dr. Stephanie Bulger, President

Zach Mulholland, Board Member

Linn-Benton Community College

Dr. Lisa Avery, President

Kristin Adams, Board Member

Mt. Hood Community College

Dr. Lisa Skari, President

ShaToyia Bentley, Board Member

Oregon Coast Community College

Dr. Marshall Mease Roache, President

Debbie Kilduff, Board Member

Portland Community College

Dr. Adrien Bennings, President

Kien Truong, Board Member

Rogue Community College

Dr. Randy Weber, President

Pat Fahey, Board Member

Southwestern Oregon Community College

Dr. Patty Scott, President

Susan Anderson, Board Member

Tillamook Bay Community College

Dr. Paul Jarrell, President

Betsy McMahon, Board Member

Treasure Valley Community College

Dr. Dana Young, President

Stephen Crow, Board Member

Umpqua Community College

Dr. Rachel Pokrandt, President

Steve Loosley, Board Member

Ex-Officio Members

- Mary Middleton, Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)
- Traci Hodgson, Oregon Education Association (OEA)
- Chris Cronin, Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA)
- Michelle Kyle (Linn-Benton CC), Oregon Community College Student Association (OCCSA)