

OCCA Board of Directors Meeting Takeaways – February 6, 2026

On Friday, February 6, 2026, the OCCA Board met virtually for its third quarterly meeting of 2025-2026. Here are some takeaways from the meeting that you are encouraged to share with your local community college board members during your respective monthly college board meetings. OCCA hopes these takeaways will help guide your conversations at your college board meetings and elicit feedback, engagement and discussion.

Legislative Session Bill Positions

The Board approved four legislative concepts and bills following recommendations from OCCA's Legislative Committee.

- [**SB 1537**](#) – This bill requires community college boards of education to have a nonvoting student member of the board. The bill also requires board members to have an email address posted on the college board website. *Position: The Board voted to **oppose** this bill unless amended.*
- [**HB 4079**](#) – This bill directs boards of education of both K-12 and higher education institutions to adopt a policy outlining how the institution will notify the campus when federal immigration authority is on school property. *Position: The Board voted to **support** this bill with amendments.*
- [**HB 4161**](#) – This bill directs that food and beverages served to college board members and staff at a meeting or official event of the college are not considered prohibited financial gain. *Position: The Board voted to **support** this bill.*
- [**HB 4124**](#) – Directs the HECC to study of the condition of Oregon's post-secondary education system and to develop detailed recommendations for the design, implementation and operation of a viable and superior institutional framework. *Position: The Board voted to **continue to monitor** this legislation for impact on community colleges.*

2026-27 OCCA Officer & Executive Committee Nominations – First Reading

The Board had a first reading of the slate of nominations from the OCCA Nominating Committee for the 2026-27 OCCA Officers and Executive Committee membership. OCCA Bylaws and Board Policies provide that the current Vice-President will become President, current Treasurer will become Secretary, and current President will become Past-President as officers of the Association who serve on the Executive Committee. The nominees are:

- President – Pat Fahey, Board Member, Rogue CC
- Vice President – Kristin Adams, Board Member, Linn-Benton CC
- Secretary – Dr. Rachel Pokrandt, President, Umpqua CC
- Treasurer – Dr. Kenny Lawson, President, Columbia Gorge CC
- Board Member At-Large – Susan Anderson, Board Member, Southwestern Oregon CC
- Board Member At-Large – Gina Sanchez-Roletto, Board Member, Portland CC
- Past President – Andrew Speer, Board Member, Mt. Hood CC

The Board is expected to vote on the nominations at its next regular meeting on May 15, 2026.

OCCA FY2024-25 Audit

The Board unanimously accepted the OCCA FY2024-25 audit statement as prepared by REDW Advisors & CPAs.

The Board heard from auditor Toby Roth from REDW Advisors & CPAs, which successfully completed OCCA's audit for FY2024-25. Mr. Roth provided the Board with an overview of the audit findings. OCCA was pleased to report that no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses were identified during the audit process.

HECC Report: Spending & Efficiency in Oregon Public Universities

Oregon Presidents' Council Chair Dr. Mark Browning (Blue Mountain CC) told the Board much of the college presidents' work has been centered on planning and strategizing around the Higher Education Coordinating Commission's (HECC's) report, [Spending and Efficiency in Oregon's Public Universities](#). This report, which was released in January, contains information about spending at Oregon's seven public universities, and included a recommendation from the HECC asking the Legislature to direct the agency to examine the structure of higher education and institutional integration. While the letter was directed toward universities, it included references to community colleges as well. Browning noted that presidents are using this as an opportunity to highlight the way community colleges already collaborate around shared services.

Board Member Development: Civil Discourse

As part of Board Member Development, OCCA Executive Director Dr. Abby Lee shared a [video from Mutual of Omaha](#), which showed how two people with very different ideologies and beliefs were able to place value on the importance of approaching each other with kindness and respect while welcoming difference, disagreement, and discussion. The video and discussion was a reminder of how board members represent colleges from all over the state, whose communities often have differing beliefs on a variety of issues.

Upcoming Events

OCCA Lunch & Learn Webinars – February 26, 2026

In January, OCCA hosted a Lunch and Learn webinar preparing participants with a clear overview of statewide legislative priorities and the work ahead of the 2026 Legislative Session. Mary Moeller from the University Council of Presidents (OCOP) and Kyle Thomas from HECC joined OCCA Deputy Director John Wykoff to share updates and context on key policy issues. OCCA Communications Director Casey White-Zollman highlighted OCCA's Advocacy Toolkit and showed participants how to find talking points and other resources. The session reinforced the importance of protecting funding and supporting student success. [Click here](#) to view the recording of the session.

Next up is a Lunch and Learn on February 26, which will highlight the community college Bachelor of Arts in Nursing programs. All Lunch & Learn webinars are included with your OCCA

membership and will take place on the last Thursday of each month through June. To register, visit <https://occa17.com/lunchandlearn/>.

CTE Day at the Capitol – February 18, 2026

After a six-year hiatus (due to COVID-19 and then construction at the Capitol), an in-person community college CTE Day will return to the state capitol on February 18, 2026. OCCA is working in collaboration with the Campus Advocacy Coordinators (CACs) and CTE deans at the colleges to provide an opportunity for legislators and their staff, as well as members of the public, to see the wide variety of specialized CTE programs Oregon community colleges offer to support their local workforce and industries. The event will feature demonstrations and opportunities for hands-on experiences, with students, faculty and staff on hand to talk with legislators. The day also serves as an opportunity for college representatives to lobby legislators regarding maintaining the Community College Support Fund (CCSF) through the biennium. Check with your college for opportunities to engage with legislators on this day. OCCA will also host an informal breakfast that morning from 7:30-9:00 a.m. across the street from the Capitol at the Willamette University Goudy Commons to give board members, college representatives and students the opportunity to network informally. Colleges attending this breakfast have invited their legislators to attend as well.

2026 All-Oregon Academic Team Luncheon – April 17, 2026

The 2026 All-Oregon Academic Team (AOAT) Luncheon will take place on Friday, April 17, 2026, at Chemeketa Community College's Eola Center in Salem. Registration for this exciting and inspiring event will open in the spring. The luncheon honors students from all 17 colleges who have made remarkable achievements in and out of the classroom, often overcoming challenging obstacles. The event's keynote speaker and featured student speakers will be announced in the spring.

Have a question about any of this information or other community college issues? Want to learn how to get more involved with the OCCA Board? Contact OCCA staff at occa@occa17.com or visit www.occa17.com. Be sure to also follow us on Facebook @OregonCommunityCollegeAssociation, on Twitter @ORCommColleges, and on LinkedIn @oregon-community-college-association and subscribe to the OCCA Digest e-newsletter on our website.