



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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TO: Board of Trustees, Oregon State University
FROM: Ben Cannon, Executive Director, HECC
DATE: April 11, 2023
SUBJECT: 2023 Q1 Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) Updates

This document highlights some of the recent actions and initiatives of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). For more information on our work, initiatives, and programs, go to: www.oregon.gov/highered or [sign up for our mailings lists for email updates](#).

HECC Presents Governor's Recommended Budget to the Legislature

The HECC has begun presenting the Governor's budget proposal for the postsecondary education and workforce system to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education. Recommendations include continuing the Oregon Tribal Student Grant; a \$100 million increase in the need-based Oregon Opportunity Grant; authorization of the federal investments in Future Ready Oregon; and funding for regional university planning and support; among many other important priorities. You can view recent HECC testimony and presentations, as well as the full Governor's Recommended Budget, HECC fact sheet, and more on our [2023 Legislative Resources web page here](#).

HECC Introduces Legislative Concepts

HECC priority legislation includes [HB 3565 – Oregon Tribal Student Grant Program](#) and [HB 3561 – Early Childhood Care and Education Scholarship](#). Other Agency concepts are [SB 217 – Cosmetology Curriculum](#), [HB 3563 – Oregon Youth Works](#), [HB 3560 – Statutory Immunity](#), and [HB 3564 – Commission Membership and Other Minor Revisions](#). [These concepts are described in a previous update to our Commission posted here](#), as well as in [slides 97-99 of our recent Ways and Means testimony here](#). We will post updates on our website as available.

HECC Continues to Streamline Transfer Pathways

In a [recent press release](#), HECC announced the approval of the first 10 commonly numbered courses at Oregon's public postsecondary institutions. With this approval, all Oregon community colleges and public universities must accept a transfer of academic credit for each course as if the credit was earned at the accepting institution, starting in the 2023-24 academic year.

The [Transfer Council](#) is also moving forward the [Oregon Transfer Compass Maps](#) that started with HB 2998 (2017). To stay updated on this work, [subscribe to the new Transfer Hub newsletter](#). You can [read the latest issue of this quarterly newsletter](#) focused on Oregon's statewide policy work and promising practices for improving transfer pathways.

Future Ready Oregon Requests Applicants for Grants Expanding Community Partnerships and Innovative Solutions

A request for applications (RFA) for the second round of Workforce Ready Grants has gone live on [our grants and contracting opportunities page here](#). You can view the [press release here in English](#), or [here in Spanish](#). The Workforce Ready: Capacity Building grants expand the state's network of workforce partnerships with community-based and culturally specific organizations and workforce service providers, as described on the [Future Ready Oregon page here](#). In the first round, the HECC has already awarded \$10 million in grants supporting 42 projects that prioritize underserved and marginalized communities. You can view a [press release here](#). To receive updates, you can sign up for the [Future Ready Oregon email list here](#).

Commission Considers Review of the Community College Funding Formula

Over the last year, the HECC has convened a work group to review the community college funding formula model in relation to statewide and community goals. The current model distributes funding entirely through enrollment that is equalized between local property tax revenue and state taxpayer dollars. The Commission reviewed HECC staff recommendations in February 2023 and is expected to consider action related to this in June 2023. The recommendations maintain much of the existing formula but adds two, student-focused components: one for student support and one for student success. Both components prioritize four populations including low-income learners, adult students, career/technical education seekers, and traditionally underrepresented students as identified by race/ethnicity.

Report Shows Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) is Strongly Linked with Student Success

In its annual evaluation of the Oregon Opportunity Grant program, HECC found that the program is consistently effective in supporting student success, but at current funding levels, many students are left out of sufficient support. Students who receive the OOG consistently do as well or better in public colleges and universities than their peers who come from similar backgrounds with only slightly higher incomes. The analysis finds that students who receive the OOG are more often from underrepresented and underserved groups: students of color, women, rural, and especially first-generation-college students. Consistent with the last such report, the 2020-21 analysis shows that OOG recipients at public institutions continue to be more likely to earn a certificate or degree than other low-income students. [Read the full report here](#).

HECC Key Performance Metrics Track Agency Progress

Interested in the state's progress on college access, affordability, completion, and earnings? All executive branch agencies have Legislatively approved key performance measures (KPMs) that relate to the mission of the agency. HECC's Office of Research and Data recently presented a summary of the 2022 Key Performance Metrics for the HECC. The HECC has 16 KPMs related to tracking progress toward the State's educational attainment goal (40-40-20). [See the summary presentation here](#).