

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Blue Mountain Community College *

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Office of Executive Director
Higher Education Coordinating Commission
www.oregon.gov/highered



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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Danny Santos
Legislative Commission on Indian Services
900 Court Street NE, Room 167
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Danny,

As Executive Director of the Higher Education Coordination Commission, I am pleased to present our 2018 Government to Government Annual Report.

My agency and I honor and value the sovereignty of Oregon's federally-recognized tribes and value the wisdom of their chosen leaders. We appreciate the opportunities we have had to work cooperatively with the educational representatives of the tribes and to build relationships that we hope will grow and expand over the coming years.

As our actions demonstrate, our Equity Lens underpins and guides our work. We are committed to actively building strong relationships with our tribal partners through consultation, concrete actions and the fulfillment of our commitments, as we establish on the following pages.

Should you have questions or comments regarding this report, please direct them to Bob Brew, Deputy Executive Director, at (503) 947-8541.

Respectfully,

Ben Cannon
Executive Director, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

ABOUT THE HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

Agency Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)
www.oregon.gov/highered

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Major Areas The Higher Education Coordinating Commission has adopted as its mission the achievement of the state's statutory target of having 40 percent of adult Oregonians with a four-year degree or better and another 40 percent with a two-year degree or postsecondary certificate by the year 2025.

Agency Statement Established in 2011 and vested with its current authorities in 2013, the HECC is a 14-member volunteer commission appointed by the Oregon Governor, with nine voting members confirmed by the State Senate. The Commission develops and implements policies and programs to ensure that Oregon's network of colleges, universities, workforce development initiatives and pre-college outreach programs are well-coordinated to foster student success. It also advises the Oregon Legislature, the Governor, and the Chief Education Office on policy and funding to meet state postsecondary goals.

Dedicated to fostering and sustaining the best, most rewarding pathways to opportunity and success for all Oregonians through an accessible, affordable and coordinated network for educational achievement beyond a high school diploma, Oregon's higher education and workforce system serves hundreds of thousands of learners through seven public universities, 17 public community colleges, private and independent colleges and universities, workforce programs, and private career and trade schools.

As the State of Oregon's single, comprehensive portal to all sectors of higher education, HECC is uniquely positioned to provide strategic focus in areas such as: Investing resources to maximize student success, increasing postsecondary affordability, improving pathways to and within postsecondary institutions, and connecting job-seekers with employment.

The Commission is supported by the state agency by the same name, comprised of eight distinct offices led by Executive Director Ben Cannon.

OFFICES OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

The Office of the Executive Director carries out the central executive role of the agency and serves as a resource for the Commission and HECC offices. Office work includes: legislative and policy development and leadership; coordination of efforts on the Commission's Strategic Plan; communications, including website management, media relations, and newsletters; commission administration; administrative rules; human resources; convening state and national stakeholders and partners; and equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives.

The Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) provides coordination, leadership and resources to Oregon's 17 locally-governed community colleges, 18 adult basic skills providers, community-based organizations and other partnerships.

The Office of Operations provides support to all HECC offices in areas including budget, procurement, payroll, accounting, and information technology. The office provides leadership, direction and guidance to the Executive Director, office administrators, managers and staff with the development of policies and strategic oversight to meet the agency's mission in compliance with state policy and federal requirements. They also assist with developing, allocating and leveraging agency resources.

The Office of Postsecondary Finance and Capital provides fiscal coordination related to Oregon's public postsecondary institutions, including financial planning, biennial budget recommendations for the Public University Support Fund, Public University State Programs, Public University Statewide Public Services, capital investments, fiscal reporting and analysis, capital bond funding administration, and the allocation of state funding to public postsecondary institutions.

The Office of Academic Policy and Authorization oversees two primary areas of work. The private postsecondary unit authorizes private degree-granting institutions and distance education providers, licenses and supports private career and trade schools, and ensures the quality, integrity, and diversity of private postsecondary programs in Oregon for the benefit of students and consumers. The unit also provides student and consumer protection from diploma mills and unlicensed career schools. The public university academic policy unit provides academic coordination related to Oregon's seven public universities, including coordination of the academic program approval process, statewide initiatives and legislative directives to enhance postsecondary pathways and student success.

The Office of Research and Data collects, analyzes, and reports research and data on postsecondary education including data on students, courses, demographics, enrollments, academic performance, and academic pathways to comply with state and federal reporting requirements and to inform decisions on the postsecondary education enterprise.

The Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) administers a variety of state, federal and privately funded student financial aid programs for the benefit of Oregonians attending institutions of postsecondary education. OSAC is responsible for the administration of state financial aid and access programs, including budget recommendations, fiscal management, policy, and awarding of financial aid to Oregon students at private and public institutions statewide.

The Office of Workforce Investments (OWI) is one of several state entities that contribute oversight, resources, and programming to the workforce development system. The HECC is the administrative entity for federally funded workforce and education programs authorized by the U.S. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) serving Oregonians.

INITIATIVES AND PARTICIPATION

The HECC coordinates activities with tribal partners, the Governor's Office, the Chief Education Office and other education partners to foster student postsecondary pathways and success. The agency receives notification of training and information sessions from the Legislative Commission on Indian Services and promotes opportunities for staff to participate.

The following are significant activities HECC staff have undertaken over the past year to honor our relationships with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon:

- ✓ Executive Director Ben Cannon has prioritized **participation in the Government to Government Education Cluster** and has committed that either he or his Deputy attend each quarterly gathering. Over the past year either Director Ben Cannon, Deputy Director Bob Brew, or both, attended each Education Cluster meeting.

Additionally, Director Cannon, Deputy Director Brew, and/or Dr. Veronica Dujon have participated in other significant events in coordination with our tribal partners, including: Tribal Governments Legislative Day at the Capitol, the Indigenous Peoples' Day at the Capitol, the Oregon Coastal Caucus Economic Summit, the Tribal-State Government to Government Summit, a Tribal Community Conversation held in Eugene, and planning meetings for the update to the **American Indian/Alaskan Native State Plan**.

- ✓ The HECC greatly values its relationship with each of the nine tribes and in an effort to clarify communication and codify tribal sovereignty moving forward is currently drafting a **HECC tribal consultation policy**. HECC has been gathering input on this policy for several months and will be submitting it to the Government to Government Education Cluster for comment at their first 2019 convening.
- ✓ **The 2018 Oregon Educator Equity Report is available on our [website here](#),** documenting Oregon's progress in diversifying the educator workforce. This annual report is published by the Chief Education Office, with contributions from the HECC, the Oregon Department of Education, and the Teacher's Standards and Practices Commission, pursuant to Senate Bill 755 (2013) and HB 3375 (2015). We encourage sharing this report with others and use the findings to support continued improvements at each step of the education career pathway in order to achieve an educator workforce that is more reflective of the demographics of over 229,000 culturally or linguistically diverse K-12 students in Oregon's public schools.
- ✓ **Youth Employment:** This past summer, the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC), administered through the HECC Office of Workforce Investments, helped fund the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's summer youth employment program. State of Oregon funds are used for one crew, and the Tribe's funds match it and run a second crew. OYCC has been granting the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde summer funds for over 20 years. In addition, OYCC providers work directly with other tribes and partners and/or hire tribal youth.

- ✓ **Tribal Organizations invited to join FAFSA Plus+ Program:** In 2017, HECC-OSAC expanded the FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid) Plus+ program. School districts, high schools, TRIO programs, tribal education agencies, and community-based organizations were invited to complete the non-competitive [FAFSA Plus+ Application](#). FAFSA Plus+ is a year-round program that includes FAFSA completion activities and support, FAFSA completion events, financial literacy information, scholarship resources, award letter help, and other college access information. OSAC shares student-level FAFSA data and best practices with sites, allowing site staff to provide targeted assistance to their students who need to complete and submit a FAFSA, make corrections, and notify students who have been selected for verification. Since the expansion, HECC has entered into data-sharing agreements with the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA), the Southern Oregon Indian Education Program (SOIEP), and the Klamath Tribes.

- ✓ **Equity, diversity and inclusion are prominent themes and guiding priorities for the HECC,** and we are committed to fostering our connections and collaborations between HECC and the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon. In 2017 Veronica Dujon, the HECC's Director of Academic Policy and Authorization, extended an invitation to Tribal Chairs to meet with each tribe to engage in ongoing conversations with each Tribe to understand how we at the HECC, and in higher education, can be better partners in serving the interests of Tribes and Native American students in Oregon. In 2018, Director Dujon and HECC Legislative Director Kyle Thomas worked with the Government to Government group to define a legislative concept for a Native American College Access Grant to provide grants to qualified Native American students to attend eligible post-secondary institutions in Oregon. Unfortunately, the LC did not advance. The HECC continues to explore financial and service opportunities to support Native American student success.

- ✓ **HECC Staff Training and Resources for Native American History Month:** As an agency committed to lifelong learning, our Diversity and Inclusion committee hosts "Equity Connect" meetings for staff to learn about important topics related to equity and diversity. With November designated as the Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, HECC's November Equity Connect training was focused on Native American culture. We hosted a screening and discussion of the television special, [Unspoken: America's Native American Boarding Schools](#) (KUED), which takes a moving and insightful look into the history, operation, and legacy of the federal Indian Boarding School system, whose goal was total assimilation of Native Americans at the cost of stripping away Native culture, tradition, and language. Prior to the Equity Connect meeting, the committee shared links to learning resources on Native American history, and hosted three pre-learning sessions for staff to view the following video resources, including:
 - [Decolonizing the Mind: Healing Through Neurodecolonization and Mindfulness, A Talk by Dr. Michael Yellow Bird](#) (PSU, 2014)
 - [Broken Treaties: An Oregon Experience](#) (OPB special)
 - [Urban Rez: How do Native Americans maintain their culture in a dominant society?](#) (PBS Special)

- ✓ **Oregon Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver:** In 2017, it was discovered that some tribal foster youth were not being recognized for the Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver by some Oregon public community colleges and universities. The Department of Human Services was specifically contacted by The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs because at least one college was not recognizing the Tribe's letter of eligibility provided to their student.

To address this issue and prevent similar incidents in the future, the HECC's Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) and the Department of Human Services' Child Welfare's Independent Living unit are working with the HECC Technology Information Services unit to develop a secure web portal, allowing for easy confirmation of a youth's eligibility. We will keep our tribal partners informed as work progresses.

As a reminder, the Oregon Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver program provides the equivalent of 4 years of undergraduate studies (after the Pell Grant, Oregon Opportunity Grant, and any school aid is applied). To be eligible, the student must:

- (1) Have at least 180 days of **Oregon** child welfare (DHS or Tribe) substitute care placement after the age of 14 **and** have been in DHS or Tribal custody at age 16 or older.
- (2) Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- (3) Enroll prior to age 25. If accessing the program at age 25, the student may continue until they have accessed the equivalent of 4 years of undergraduate studies. Students must make satisfactory progress.

Our partners and the public can find former quarterly Government to Government updates as well as other information on work and initiatives in **Coordination with Oregon Tribes** located in the Equity and Student Success section of the HECC website at: www.oregon.gov/HigherEd.

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