



**REPRESENTATIVE MARK JOHNSON
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 52**

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Representative Mark Johnson To Discuss ‘Oregon Promise’ Community College Program At The White House

Hood River Representative Will Join Panel Discussion On College Opportunity And Affordability, ‘Oregon Promise’ Program

Salem, OR – Representative Mark Johnson (R-Hood River) will join U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, incoming Acting U.S. Secretary of Education, John King, Senior Officials from the White House and the U.S. Department of Education and other national education leaders for **The White House Convening of State Education Leaders** on December 8, 2015. Rep. Johnson, who co-sponsored legislation establishing the Oregon Promise program, will join a panel on college opportunity and affordability to discuss Oregon’s legislative process on free community college.

“I’m honored to have been invited to the White House to participate in this discussion about college affordability,” said Rep. Johnson. “I look forward to sharing with national leaders and other legislators about the process of passing the Oregon Promise in the last legislative session and what the program will do to make community college more affordable for Oregon high school graduates. The investments we are making in our students through this program will help our state develop and establish a more educated and stable workforce which, in turn, will bring enormous long-term economic benefits to our economy. I’m hopeful that the Oregon Promise can become a model for states around the country seeking to improve access to affordable post-secondary education and career training programs.”

Oregon joined Tennessee earlier this year as the first states in the country to offer [free community college tuition](#) to students who meet certain [eligibility requirements](#). Oregon’s initiative was established as a “last-dollar” program, meaning eligible students must apply for and accept all federal and state financial aid, with the state covering any remaining tuition costs. To be eligible for the program, applicants must be recent high school graduates with a minimum cumulative high school GPA of 2.5 and have lived in Oregon for at least 12 months. Once enrolled, they must maintain a 2.5 GPA and be making satisfactory academic progress in order to maintain their eligibility for the program. Since the Oregon Promise debuted last month, [thousands of Oregon students have applied to enroll](#).

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