

August 17, 2017

To: OCCC Board of Education

From: Birgitte Ryslinge, OCCC President

RE: Change in OCCC Core Themes

The OCCC Board adopted its current Mission in 2014, and supporting Core Themes in 2015. Recent work at the College by Dan Lara (Dean of Academics and Workforce and Accreditation Liaison Officer), the Accreditation Steering Committee, and our Institutional Research staff (contracted through Linn Benton Community College) has led to a recommendation to revise the Core Themes. The previous Core Themes of Responsiveness and Economic and Civic Vitality have now been incorporated into the Core Themes of Student Success of Educational Pathways, and an overarching objective has been established for each. I recommend that the Board formally adopt the revised Core Themes.

### **NWCCU Requirements and Standards**

Eligibility Requirement #3: The institution's mission and core themes are clearly defined and adopted by its governing board(s) consistent with its legal authorization, and are appropriate to a degree-granting institution of higher education.

Accreditation Standard 1.B Core Themes

- 1.B.1 The institution identifies core themes that individually manifest essential elements of its mission and collectively encompass its mission.
- 1.B.2 The institution establishes objectives for each of its core themes and identifies meaningful, assessable, and verifiable indicators of achievement that form the basis for evaluating accomplishment of the objectives of its core themes.

### **Mission and Revised Core Themes**

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At Oregon Coast Community College, we equip students for success by providing educational pathways and supports in response to the diverse needs of our community. Through accessible and engaging programs, we enrich the economic and civic vitality of Lincoln County and beyond.

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### **Core Theme: Student Success**

*Objective: OCCC will improve post-secondary educational attainment across Lincoln County and close achievement gaps for underserved populations in our community.*

At Oregon Coast Community College, we equip students for success in college and in life by providing exemplary teaching, student development programs and support services. Students receive customized and relevant advising and enriched supports to maximize completion and success. In response to the diverse needs and histories of our community we are institutionalizing a philosophy of student success and strengthening the College's policies, processes, and business practices to facilitate access and completion.

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**Core Theme: Educational Pathways**

*Objective: OCCC will offer rigorous and engaging academic programs and educational options comprised of clear pathways to transfer, employment and self-development that enrich individual lives and promote the economic and civic vitality of Lincoln County and beyond.*

At Oregon Coast Community College we assess the needs of individuals and employers, and respond by designing pathways and partnerships that address community and regional priorities. We create bridges into our pathways from high school, adult education, non-credit, and other feeders. Educational pathways are accessible through place and modality, and facilitate transitions to transfer or employment. We strengthen the economy and workforce through our business development, career technical and transfer programs. By narrowing achievement gaps in post-secondary education and raising post-secondary educational attainment, we advance the economic and civic vitality of Lincoln County and beyond.