

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Breakout Session: Board Member Engagement

OCCA changed the format of its Board meeting to start with breakout groups to improve board member participation and engagement. Groups were asked three questions:

1. How can OCCA Board meetings be more engaging?
2. What are some future topics of interest for board meetings?
3. What is your understanding of your role as a board member?

Some of the report-outs from the breakout session provided good feedback, including that most participants appreciated the breakout sessions, which gave the ability for board members to have more of an opportunity to speak. Several groups brought up the desire to get to know other board members with introductions at the start of meetings, bringing back ice-breaker activities, and hearing about issues colleges and boards are facing and how others may help provide potential solutions. Additionally, the idea of shorter meetings more often, particularly as we continue to meet virtually, might be more effective and engaging than quarterly meetings that are each three hours long.

Onboarding of next Executive Director

The OCCA Board said thank you and goodbye to outgoing Executive Director Cam Preus, who will retire at the end of December after a 20-year career in service to Oregon community colleges. Onboarding plans for incoming Executive Director Morgan Cowling are in progress. Morgan will start on Jan. 3, 2022.

DID YOU KNOW?

Howard Cherry Awards

Each year, OCCA honors and celebrates the contributions of local advocates, community college administrators and board members have made to the benefit of community colleges in Oregon with the annual Howard Cherry Awards. The Howard Cherry Awards are named for the late Dr. Howard Cherry, a lifelong advocate for education and community involvement. Dr. Cherry was also a founding member of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and was a trustee of the American Association of Community & Junior Colleges. This year, OCCA is proud to announce the following winners:

**Community College
Advocate:**

Senator Bill Hansell (R-Athena)



**Community College
Administrator:**

*Birgitte Ryslinge
(President, Oregon Coast
Community College)*



**Community College
Board Member:**

*Rosemary Pryor
(Lane Community College)*



Talking Points
OCCA Board of Directors Meeting
December 3, 2021

In addition, the Board noted the Oregon Presidents Council will honor Dr. Alicia Moore, Vice President of Student Affairs at Central Oregon Community College, with the Cam Preus Award for Extraordinary Commitment to Community Colleges. This award is intended for a current or former employee of an Oregon community college with a proven track record of extraordinary commitment to student access and success, at least 15 years of service in the field, and significant positive impact within the Oregon community college sector. The award recognizes individuals whose work, like that of Cam Preus, has demonstrated statewide reach.

**Cam Preus Award for
Extraordinary
Commitment to
Community Colleges:**

*Dr. Alicia Moore
(Central Oregon Community
College)*



These outstanding individuals will be honored during the Howard Cherry Awards Banquet at OCCA's Annual Conference April 14 in Sunriver.

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 and on Twitter @ORCommColleges. You can also download the Voter Voice app in the Google Play and Apple stores to become a community college advocate!