



G.a. Board Resolution – 2023 Community College Legislative Priorities

Whereas Community Colleges are the only sector of public post-secondary education that serve any student regardless of education and skill level,

Whereas community colleges serve the largest number of underrepresented and first-generation students of any sector of Oregon post-secondary education,

Whereas reducing educational, economic and social inequities depends on having successful, student-ready community colleges across Oregon,

Whereas community colleges are critical providers of Career and Technical Education, workforce training, and short-term certificates,

Whereas community colleges serve as a bridge between high schools and a 4-year degree,

Whereas community colleges provide GED programs and are major partners in offering college-level courses to high school students,

Whereas further training or certification for adults in the workforce with some post-secondary education but no degree or certification will be necessary for meeting the needs of Oregonian employers,

Whereas community colleges educate and train the skilled workforce that local businesses and job seekers alike need to thrive,

Whereas the Oregon Community College Association Board adopted a request of a minimum of \$855 million in ongoing funding and \$50 million in one-time funding for the Community College Support Fund in the 2023-25 biennium,

Whereas Oregon currently does not have a robust enough financial aid system to make it possible for many adult learners and students directly out of high school to attain post-secondary education and training,

Whereas access to sufficient need-based financial aid is essential to narrowing inequitable gaps in educational attainment,

Whereas, at a minimum, doubling the Oregon Opportunity Grant would expand access to post-secondary education and training to students coming from high school as well as working adults,

Whereas, applied baccalaureate degrees are an essential tool and access point for students to continue their career and technical 2-year degrees at their community college

Whereas, there are acute workforce shortages in healthcare across the state, especially in nursing, and community colleges are a critical workforce provider in healthcare, including nursing,

And Whereas, further legislation is required to clarify that colleges may offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree through the legislation that empowered colleges to offer applied baccalaureate degrees;

Be it Resolved that the _____ Board of Education supports the Oregon Community College Association legislative priorities of \$855 million in ongoing funding and \$50 million in onetime funding for the Community



College Support Fund, a minimum increase of \$200 million for the Oregon Opportunity grant, and legislation clarifying colleges may offer Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees.

Board of Education President

Date