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OCCA DIGEST - April 5, 2016

OCCA STAFF

AACC makes call for action to close achievement gap

In February, ACCT, AACC, and Higher Ed for Higher Standards released a report titled [Seizing the Moment](#). The report highlights the work community colleges must do to close the preparation gap that leaves so many incoming students behind academically.

A closer collaboration between community colleges and K-12 school systems is an essential component in the strategy to increase the preparedness of students entering higher education institutions and, ultimately, to successfully completing a postsecondary degree.

To move this work forward, the American Association of Community Colleges is seeking your help.

Here are two things community college trustees and presidents can do:

1. **Show your support for this work:** [Join the Higher Ed for Higher Standards coalition](#) and add your name to the 350 leaders from

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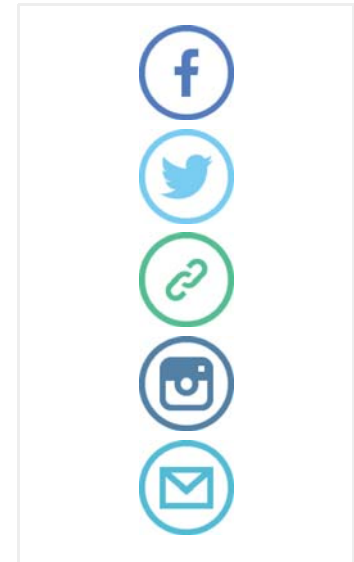
around the country who have already signed on. You can also show your support by issuing a proclamation to your state and community that acknowledges the importance of aligning community colleges and K-12 systems and commits to the [mission & vision](#) of the Higher Ed for Higher Standards coalition.

2. **Share what you're doing:** [Please go to this link](#) to share the work your institution is doing to align expectations and build a stronger bridge with your local K-12 schools. Also indicate if you're interested in pursuing this work further.

If you have any questions about the report or this ongoing work, please email Higher Ed for Higher Standards at info@higheredforhigherstandards.org.

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Governor announces membership of new Council on Educator Advancement

[Governor Brown announced the members of the new Council on Educator Advancement](#) that will focus on fostering teaching excellence and cultivating a culturally competent educator workforce in Oregon.

The Council is charged with recommending key strategies to the Governor for ensuring Oregon's educators have access to mentoring, specialized professional learning, and opportunities for leadership development.

"We all want Oregon's students to learn from caring, competent, and culturally responsive educators," [Governor Brown said](#). "The Council's efforts will help ensure educators have meaningful opportunities to expand their skills and capacity to pursue ongoing professional learning and leadership development."

The Council has until September 1, 2016 to report written findings and recommendations to the Governor.

The 17 members appointed by the Governor to make up the Council include the following:

- **Paul Andrews**, Deputy Superintendent, High Desert Education Service District
- **Ana Gomez**, Statewide Coordinator, Juntos Program at Oregon State University; member of the Quality Education Commission

- **Karen Green**, teacher, Ashland School District
- **Don Grotting**, Superintendent, David Douglas School District; advisor to the State Board of Education
- **Randy Hitz**, Dean, Graduate School of Education, Portland State University
- **Nanette Lehman**, middle school administrator, Baker School District; 2013 Oregon Teacher of the Year
- **Jennifer Miller**, teacher and English Language Development specialist, North Clackamas School District
- **Michelle Oakes**, National Board Certified Teacher and Mentor Program Coordinator, Bend-LaPine Schools
- **Marty Perez**, teacher, Portland Public Schools
- **Christy Perry**, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer Public Schools
- **Martha Richards**, Executive Director, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation
- **George Russell**, member of the African American/Black Student Success Plan Advisory Panel; past co-chair of the Oregon Alliance for Educational Equity
- **Laura Scruggs**, teacher and coordinator for the Global Institute of Teacher Advancement, Springfield Public Schools
- **Heidi Sipe**, Superintendent, Umatilla School District; 2016 Oregon Superintendent of the Year
- **Carmen Urbina**, Program Development and Outreach Coordinator for the Educational Methodology, Policy, and Leadership Department, College of Education, University of Oregon and Oregon Center for Equity Promotion
- **Colleen Works**, high school administrator, Corvallis School District; 2011 Oregon Teacher of the Year
- **Matt Yoshioka**, Principal, Lincoln Primary School; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Pendleton School District

Other members of the council include:

- One member of the Oregon State Senate designated by the Senate President
 - One member of the Oregon House of Representatives designated by the Speaker of the House
 - The Chief Education Officer
 - The Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - The Executive Director of the Teacher and Standards Practices Commission
 - The Early Learning System Director
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The gap widens

A recently released study, [Rising Tide II: Do Black Students Benefit as Grad Rates Increase?](#), examines a decade of graduation rates at public, four-year institutions that have improved student success over the years.

The study finds that, among institutions that have improved overall graduation rates from 2003 to 2013, 53 percent of institutions did not make the same gains for black students as they did for white students.

Alarmingly, at some institutions, the achievement gaps between white students and black students have actually widened. Moreover, at almost one-third of the postsecondary institutions that improved overall student success rates, the report found that graduation rates for black students were flat or declining.

The report also features initiatives at several institutions that have been successful at both raising the graduation rates for all students while also closing the completion gap between black students and white students. One such effective initiative has been advising and mentoring services that create a continuous line of support for black students. Though, the report reiterates what many already know: there is no “silver bullet” when it comes to improving student success rates and closing the gap between racial groups.

To read the full report, please click [here](#).

An invitation to re-imagine education in Oregon

[Between March and July this year, the Oregon Department of Education \(ODE\) is hosting several town hall meetings across the state.](#) ODE will be reaching out to hear from communities about their values and priorities related to education. Participants will hear about state education initiatives, contribute to a discussion on the factors supporting student success, and get their questions answered by local and state education leaders.

The schedule for the town hall meetings is as follows:

- Thursday, March 31, 2016, [Milwaukie \(Clackamas County\)](#), 6:00

- p.m., at [Wichita Center for Children and Families](#)
- Monday, April 11, 2016, Pendleton (Umatilla County), 6:30 p.m., at the [Pendleton Early Learning Center](#)
 - Wednesday, April 20, 2016, Medford (Jackson County), 6:00 p.m., at [Medford School District's Education Center Board Room](#)
 - Monday, April 25, 2016, Redmond (Central Oregon, Deschutes County), 6:00 p.m., at [High Desert ESD \(Board Room\)](#)
 - Thursday, April 28, 2016, Salem (Marion and Polk County), 6:00 p.m., at [Claggett Creek Middle School](#)
 - Monday, May 2, 2016, Ontario (Malheur County), 6:00 p.m., at [Four Rivers Cultural Center \(River Rooms\)](#)
 - Tuesday, May 10, 2016, Eugene (Lane County), 6:00 p.m., at [South Eugene High School \(Cafeteria\)](#)
 - Thursday, May 12, 2016, Portland (Multnomah County), 6:00 p.m., location pending
 - Monday, May 16, 2016, Portland (Multnomah County), 6:00 p.m., location pending
 - Monday, May 23, 2016, Coos Bay (Coos County/South Coast), 6:00 p.m., [Southwestern Oregon Community College \(Lakeview Rooms in Hales Center/Empire Hall\)](#)
 - Tuesday, May 24, 2016, Hood River (Hood River and Wasco County), 6:00 p.m., [Best Western Hood River Inn \(Columbia Room\)](#)

To learn more, click [here](#).

Register today: All Oregon Academic Team Luncheon

The [2016 All Oregon Academic Team Recognition Program](#) will take place on May 3, 2016 at the Salem Convention Center. Please save the date and join us in celebrating the achievements of the 2016 All Oregon Academic Team recipients. [Click here to register!](#)

Program for the day of the event:

Presentation at Oregon State Capitol

Recognition by Governor Kate Brown and group photo in the Ceremonial Office

Arrival time: 9:30 a.m. • Photo time: 10:00 a.m.

900 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301

Luncheon at the Salem Convention Center

Check-in time: 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Award program and luncheon: 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
201 Liberty St SE, Salem, OR 97301

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National college campus security summit to take place in Portland, Oregon

ACCT will hold a national college campus security summit in Portland, Oregon on June 13-14, 2016.

To view the draft agenda, please click [here](#).

*Each Oregon community college will receive **one free** registration!*

[REGISTER HERE!](#)



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What?

This summit is designed to assist community college board members, presidents and their leadership teams, and others in safeguarding the college while continuing on the path of improving student success and completion.

The one and half day summit will examine the following: preparing for a

disaster, reacting to and implementing plans during a disaster, and recovery efforts, both short-term and long-term – all the while helping the college to stay committed to student success, completion, and equity.

The summit will also bring together community colleges' leadership teams to: review policies and systems that should be in place, promote a statewide approach to security preparedness whereby institutions proactively agree to provide assistance to other institutions within their state or region, and participate in disaster learning scenarios to teach effective strategies for managing such events.

Who should participate?

- Trustees
- Presidents
- Board Support Staff
- Senior Leadership Team
- Public Information Officers
- Safety/Security Officers
- State Association Staff

Please bring a copy of your Institutional Readiness Plan, if you have one

Where?

The summit will take place at the [Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront](#). To receive the ACCT discounted hotel room rate of only \$169 per night, please click [here](#). The deadline to reserve your hotel room is Friday, May 27.

When?

Monday, June 13 and Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Registration

To register, please click [here](#).

ACCT is giving ONE FREE registration per Oregon college. To receive the free registration code, send an email to csimons@acct.org.

Fees:

ACCT Member – Individual: \$300

ACCT Member – Team (up to 5 people from a college): \$1000

Non-ACCT Member – Individual: \$500

Non-ACCT Member – Team (up to 5 people from a college): \$1500

If you have any questions about the event, please contact Christina Simons, Education Events Specialist at ACCT: csimons@acct.org or 202-775-4462

Oregon's 17 community colleges are a vital part of the state's education system and serve roughly 350,000 students a year, or about 1 in 11 Oregonians.

The OCCA Digest updates members and the public about recent news affecting community colleges and efforts by the association to enhance student success and workforce development.

Do you have links to local stories or other items of interest? Please forward them to mjensen@occa17.com.

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