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## Community College State-wide Structure Criteria

Oregon's community colleges are designed to serve the educational needs of their local community. Each college is governed by a locally elected seven member board that directly connects the college to the community. Community college board members are accountable to their communities for the success of their students, their ability to meet local needs, and the financial integrity of their colleges. The 17 colleges operate under a strong ethic of collaboration on issues of state-wide importance, ensuring collectively that resources are leveraged to best support the needs of all students and communities. Through these efforts, colleges are working together to advance the ideas of access, student success and completion.

### **A statewide structure for Oregon community colleges will:**

- **Champion local community college's right to respond to local needs in effective, flexible ways.**
  - Ensure that locally elected boards of education and the powers enumerated in ORS 341 are upheld.
  - Protect local authority to set priorities and policies that govern community college operations at the local level.
  - Recognize the diversity of Oregon's community colleges and avoid unfunded statewide mandates or regulations.
  - Recognize the unique mission and structure of community colleges as distinct and different from K-12 or the Oregon University System, while strengthening and deepening partnerships with both systems equally.
  
- **Support and advocate the broad, comprehensive community college mission.**
  - Support transfer, professional-technical, basic skills and community education programs based on local needs.
  - Support student preparation, persistence and completion at all levels.
  - Align state finance and budget decisions with the community college mission and objectives and make funding requests to the Governor and the Legislature that further the mission and objectives.
  - Create a strong partnership between the state and local colleges that clearly identifies and supports the role and relationship of each.

- **Provide leadership and support to community colleges in their continual redesign of educational delivery and structural systems to serve the current, emerging and future educational needs of Oregonians.**
  - Convene and support statewide initiatives that are designed in partnership with the colleges to increase student access, success and completion.
  - Provide assistance, research and best practice information to colleges.
  - Create collaborative partnerships with other educational sectors, the workforce system and employers at the state level.
  - Create an information infrastructure that enables colleges to use learning analytics.
  
- **Provide policy and administrative frameworks that supports community colleges**
  - Create targeted administrative rules to the extent necessary to address state level issues while supporting local boards' roles over all other policies governing the operation of the college.
  - Distribute state money to the colleges in an equitable manner that supports student preparation, persistence and completion
  - Provide audit functions to ensure that data from the colleges is accurate.
  - Approve the creation of new college degree and certificate programs proposed by colleges and ensure that there is no unnecessary duplication of programs.