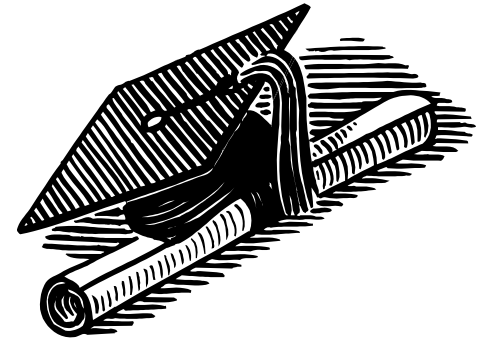


Presented to the House  
Committee on Higher  
Education and  
Workforce Development  
February 28, 2014



## HECC State Financial Aid Work Group Update

Larry Roper, Chair

# Work Group Basics and Timeline

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- Legislative interest in effective use of OOG investment led to OEIB charge to HECC

## **Charge (OEIB → HECC → Work Group)**

- Appointed and charged in November 2013, the work group is comprised of HECC commissioners, as well as leaders from OUS, community college, and independent postsecondary sectors, student government, OSAC, Treasurer's Office, and the foundation community
- Seven public meetings since November 2013
- Invited testimony and presentations from financial aid administrators and other stakeholders
- Currently working on preliminary recommendations to be submitted late March, report finalized in early April

# Focus of work to date:

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- ▶ Analyzed the current status of funding, policies, and implementation procedures
- ▶ Considered partner presentations to inform work, including:
- ▶ Developed, approved, and ranked a set of 14 foundational principles
- ▶ Completed a work group questionnaire, which is helping to shape recommendations
- ▶ Learned from research and best practices in other state grant aid programs - Dr. Nate Johnson of Strategy Lab, supported by the Lumina Foundation

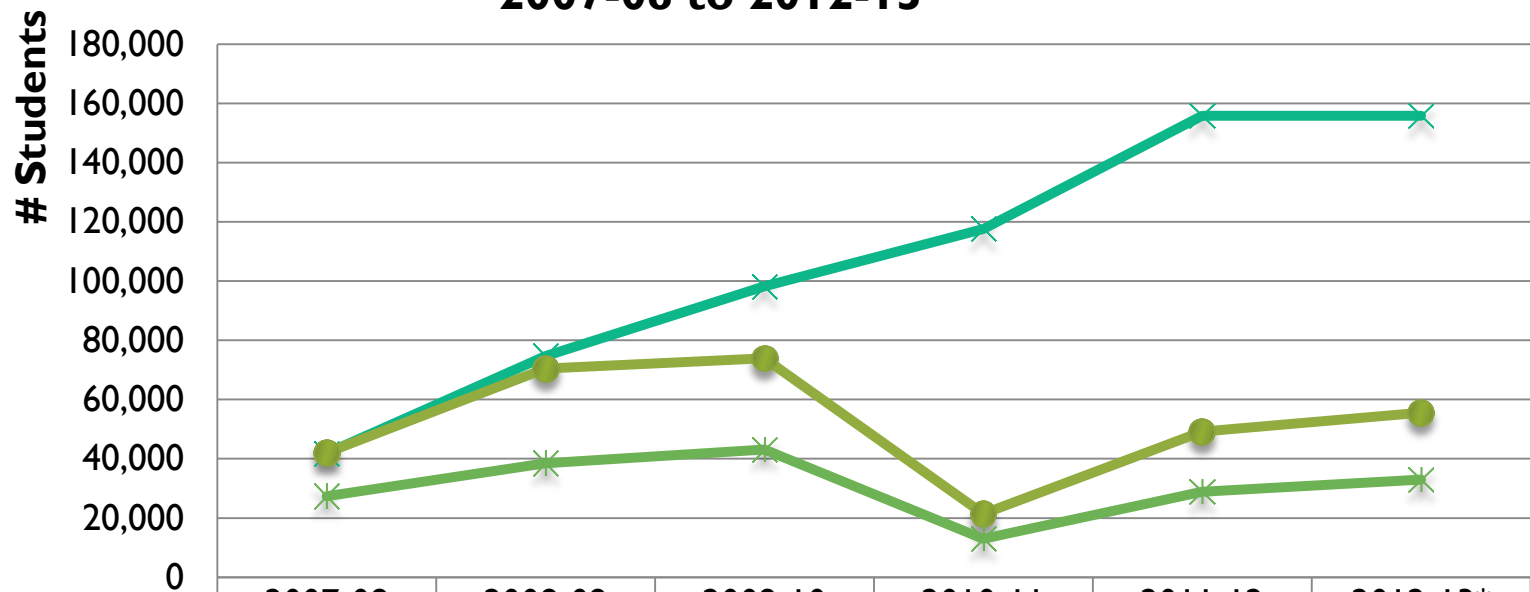
# Preliminary Work Group Analysis

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- ▶ OOG Program underfunded to meet student need and support student progress toward 40-40-20 goals (e.g., of 155,800 eligible in 2012-13, 32,924 received the grant)
- ▶ Work group analyzed the current allocation methodology in light of student access and success, and funding levels
- ▶ Work Group sees the Shared Responsibility Model vision for affordability as strong, but in practice the methodology does not function as envisioned because of the insufficient funding levels
- ▶ Resolved to create a 2-tier proposal that will make the most effective use of current funding levels, and will scale up to a visionary model which will meet student and state needs for 40-40-20

# Preliminary Analysis: OOG Eligible/Recipients

**OOG Eligible and Recipient  
2007-08 to 2012-13**



# Partial Analysis: SRM

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- The original SRM vision was for the state funded OOG to support remaining need after the other partners (student, family, federal government) apply their share. The grant is now at a \$2,000 flat amount, so even for the highest need students there is significant unmet need even after state resources.

## *Examples for \$0 EFC (highest need) students:*

\$20,710 (Pub/Priv 4-yr)

— \$8,800 (Student Share)

— \$0 (Family Share/EFC)

— \$5,645 (Pell)

— \$0 (Tax credit)

**= \$6,265 (Remaining need)**

**= \$2,000 OOG award**



\$17,026 (Public 2-yr)

— \$5,800 (Student Share)

— \$0 (Family Share/EFC)

— \$5,645 (Pell)

— \$0 (Tax credit)

**= \$5,581 (Remaining need)**

**= \$2,000 OOG award**



# Priority Foundational Principles

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- 1. Access is a high priority**
- 2. Support students from historically underserved communities**
- 3. The financial aid model will have integrity – it will be predictable for planning by students and families**
- 4. The plan will be durable - recipients will know that support is reliable from year-to-year**
- 5. Success of the program will be measurable and will be regularly evaluated**
- 6. The model will be financially sustainable and scalable**
- 7. The program will equitably respond to the needs of students in different sectors of higher education**

# Preliminary Recommendations

*Draft in Progress – not yet approved*

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- ▶ **Desired Outcome:** Develop a grant program that will both achieve the goal of access to higher education and vocational and technical education for low-income and historically under-represented students and stimulate the achievement of the State of Oregon's 40-40-20 goals



# Preliminary Recommendations

*Draft in Progress – not yet approved*

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## **Target audience**

- ▶ Those who odds of attainment will be most enhanced by receiving the grant
- ▶ Those who most need the financial support
- ▶ Students meeting the enrollment criteria
- ▶ Historically underrepresented students
- ▶ Students demonstrating a solid academic profile
- ▶ Students demonstrating a blend of “high promise” with “high need”

# Preliminary Recommendations

## *Draft in Progress – not yet approved*

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### **Initial Criteria**

- ▶ Need-based eligibility criteria (Pell eligibility)
- ▶ From historically underrepresented group
- ▶ Completing a high school diploma, a GED, homeschool, or the equivalent.
- ▶ Eligible for enrollment
- ▶ Oregon residents attending two-year and four-year public and private colleges and universities or licensed vocational and technical programs, eligible to administer Federal aid and located and headquartered in Oregon

# Preliminary Recommendations

*Draft in Progress – not yet approved*

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## **Award Process**

- ▶ Highest priority to low-income students who demonstrate promise for success
- ▶ Underrepresented students will be prioritized within the low-income student population
- ▶ Funding for the first year of attendance
- ▶ Funding beyond the first year will be determined based on meeting progress and achievement benchmarks
- ▶ Beyond the second year renewal will be based on escalated performance criteria, relative to initial renewal benchmarks
- ▶ Combine the Oregon Opportunity Grant with other sources of aid to help meet students' financial need
- ▶ Institutional appeal processes will be in place to address mitigating circumstances

# Preliminary Recommendations

*Draft in Progress – not yet approved*

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## **Award Size**

- ▶ Reflects shared responsibility
- ▶ Award variable amounts based on needs of students, with an established maximum, benchmarked to tuition, books and cost of attendance
- ▶ Note: There is no threshold for what constitutes a “meaningful” grant amount. Meaningful will vary by the circumstance of the student and what amount will influence her/his ability to pursue education beyond the secondary level.

# Preliminary Recommendations *Draft in Progress – not yet approved*

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*Additional items to be discussed at the March 4 public meeting:*

- ▶ **Predictability**
- ▶ **Application deadline**
- ▶ **Incentives (renewal)**
- ▶ **Alignment with other aid sources**

# Questions?

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- ▶ Larry Roper, Work Group Chair  
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