



March 30, 2015

Co-Chair, Senator Rod Monroe
Co-Chair, Representative Betty Komp
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Education

Dear Co-Chairs Monroe and Komp,

Thank you for the opportunity to answer questions that arose during the March 26 Higher Education Coordinating Commission's presentation to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education.

Representative Taylor asked how much institutional aid the private colleges and universities provide their students. While the HECC does not collect this information, we were able to obtain information on institutionally funded aid to undergraduate students from the Alliance of Independent Colleges and Universities, with the most recent data being for the 2011-12 academic year. The Alliance represents private not-for-profit colleges and universities in Oregon and their membership is listed at <http://oaicu.org/members/>. Michael Chambers, their director of research and grants, reports:

- 27,826 Alliance undergraduate students received a total of \$281,652,822 in institutional grants, for an average grant award of \$10,122.
- 7,980 Alliance undergraduate students received a total of \$7,865,723 in institutionally funded Work Study/employment, for an average of \$986.

Mr. Chambers notes that there is surely overlap in the populations receiving grants and work-study/employment, so they cannot take a total of the numbers and dollars. Combined, these two forms of institutional aid comprised 56% of all forms of financial aid (including Federal, State, and private grants and loans) to the undergraduates of these institutions for 2011-12.

Co-Chair Monroe asked about how prevalent college-to-university degree partnership programs are between Oregon community colleges and universities, noting the benefits he has seen in the Linn-Benton Community College/ Oregon State University partnership. Degree partnership programs, also called "dual enrollment" or "co-admission" agreements, are programs that allow students to be formally enrolled at both a community college and an Oregon public university at the same time. Through participation in these programs, students have more courses to choose from, can take advantage of services at both campuses, and can simplify the transfer process. Each of Oregon's seventeen community colleges has at least one degree partnership program with a partner institution and some campuses have multiple such agreements. The HECC is in the process of confirming the status of Oregon's seven public universities partnership agreements and will follow-up with the results. Additional information regarding student pathways and transitions from community colleges to universities in presentations is currently scheduled for March 31.

Representative Komp requested a copy of the Federal Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA). This is provided as an attachment.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our legislative deputy director Dana Richardson at dana.richardson@state.or.us.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben C", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ben Cannon
Executive Director, HECC