



Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Ben Cannon, Executive Director

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March 31, 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 30 Higher Education Coordinating Commission's presentation to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education.

Co-Chair Monroe asked what proportion of schools served by Oregon ASPIRE is in rural areas. Oregon ASPIRE currently has 149 sites, and of these, 90 (60%) are in rural areas while 59 are in urban areas. With the Salem Keizer School District expansion, ASPIRE is projected to grow to 166 sites, including 90 in rural areas (54%) and 76 in urban areas.

Representative Sprenger asked that information be shared on schools served by Oregon ASPIRE in each Education Subcommittee member's district. We have provided the names of the sites and contacts in each member's district, as well as informational brochures and documents about Oregon ASPIRE which may prove useful. We would be happy to provide additional information if needed.

After viewing the apparent complexity of the paper Federal Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) Co-Chair Komp asked what has changed in recent years on this form. The U.S. Department of Education modifies the FAFSA each year. Sometimes these modifications are the result of changes in federal statute, policies, or lines on federal tax forms; sometimes questions are reworded to provide more clarity. In addition to the changes noted in testimony, we are preparing and will submit a summary of changes to each section of the FAFSA from 2005-06 to 2015-16.

Although the paper version of the FAFSA appears to be daunting in length, the majority of students complete the FAFSA online and skip logic embedded in the online FAFSA reduced the amount of time needed to complete the form. Applicants never see questions that are not relevant to their situation. According to U.S. Department of Education records, the average time needed to complete a FAFSA is now about 21 minutes, and even less for the Renewal FAFSA. More than 99% of students filed their FAFSAs for the 2014-15 academic year online.

Finally, Co-Chair Monroe asked how the tuition and fees are applied for students who are dual-enrolled at a community college and public university. We have contacted at Linn Benton Community College (LBCC) which has a significant number of dual-enrolled students, and verified that while a student has a "home institution" for the purposes of financial aid, this is not a factor in cost. Students pay the cost of the class dependent upon where it is taught not according to student type. For example, if the course is through LBCC,

students would pay the community college tuition, even if they are dual-enrolled at Oregon State University. We are currently in the process of verifying that this is the case with other dual enrollment agreements across other institutions.

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

ASPIRE SITES	Site Contact	Email
Representative John Huffman		
Canby High School	Karlie Richardson	richardk@canby.k12.or.us
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Woodburn High School	Mario Garza	
Senator Rod Monroe		
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Clackamas Middle College	Amber Ellis	ellisam@nclack.k12.or.us
Open Door Christian Academy	Christy Rehman	
Oregon Outreach at Hinton	Kim Keyes	
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Santiam High School (MS and HS)	Amy Jensen	amy.jensen@santiam.k12.or.us
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Open Door Christian Academy	Christy Rehman	
Oregon Outreach at Hinton	Kim Keyes	
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