



Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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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 May 14 Higher Education Coordinating Commission's presentation to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education.

Co-chair Komp asked whether it will be possible in the future for students to not be required to gather physical copies of their high school transcripts to submit to universities when seeking admission. According to Carl Thomas, Director of Admissions at Oregon Institute of Technology and Chair of the Inter-institutional Committee on Admissions and Recruitment for the Oregon public universities, the campuses already accept a combination of paper and electronic transcripts from high school students, but since the technology infrastructure capability varies from district to district and school to school, paper versions are common, and the campuses cannot rely at this time on electronic versions only. In general, the technology exists for universities to receive electronic transcripts, and for these to be transmitted directly from the high schools. If this activity was to be augmented, there would need to be greater levels of consistency in the technology infrastructure across high schools and campuses in Oregon and nationally.

Co-Chair Komp also asked that we discuss how Community College and Workforce Development (CCWD) is spending Federal Funds in its workforce development programs. CCWD has two major Federal Funded programs (Workforce Investment Act Title IB, and Title II).

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title IB Federal Funds provide customized assistance to individuals as they gain employment, keep employment, or advance in the workplace. These programs also serve businesses by providing skilled employees who contribute to the productivity and competitiveness of Oregon's economy. CCWD administers these federal job training funds on behalf of the Governor. The programs are delivered by Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs) and a network of local/community service providers. The programs assist youth, adults, and dislocated workers by providing education and employment transition services. Some of the funds are targeted to people who face serious barriers to employment. WIA Title IB resources include: \$67.1 million Federal Funds and 26.14 FTE. Activities supported include:

- Personal Services (actuals plus projected for 2013-15 biennium): \$4.5 million
- Services and Supplies (actuals plus projected for 2013-15 biennium): \$3.3 million
- Special Payments (actuals plus projected for 2013-15 biennium): \$58.7 million (funds go to local workforce boards)

WIA Title II Federal Funds provide adult Oregonians faced with serious employment obstacles, ages 16 and older, assistance to obtain the knowledge and basic skills necessary for work, further education, family self-sufficiency, and community involvement. These adults are served in Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, and adult literacy programs. Basic skills include reading, writing, math, speaking/listening in English, GED and Adult High School Diploma preparation, and basic computer literacy. WIA Title II resources include: \$10.9 million Federal Funds and 5.89 FTE. Activities supported include:

- Personal Services (actuals plus projected for 2013-15 biennium): \$1.3 million
- Services and Supplies (actuals plus projected for 2013-15 biennium): \$0.4 million
- Special Payments (actuals plus projected for 2013-15 biennium): \$8.8 million (funds go to community college districts and Corrections Dept.)

We are appreciative of Senator Roblan's question of whether the HECC has the authority to administer the Community Leverage Fund and the Center for Community Innovation included in policy option packages 151 and 152. It appears that additional legislative authority may be needed in order for the HECC to administer these programs. We are working with the Governor's Office to determine how best to address any potential gaps in the necessary legislative authority.

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

Regards,



Ben Cannon
Executive Director, HECC