



Date February 6, 2015
To House Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development Committee
From Connie Green, Tillamook Bay Community College President
Subject House Bill 2408

Senator Read and members of the committee, I am Connie Green, President of Tillamook Bay Community College. With me this morning is Ben Cannon, Executive Director of the Higher Education Coordination Commission (HECC) and Jim Middleton, Interim Commissioner of the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD).

I was a member of the House Bill 4018 Task Force that was created in the 77th Legislative Session. This task force was charged with “analyzing how the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development can best be integrated into the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.”

Task Force members included Senator Mark Hass, Representative Paul Holvey, community college presidents Debra Derr and myself. Ed Dodson, a member of Chemeketa Community College Board, chaired the committee. HECC Executive Director Ben Cannon and HECC Commission Vice-Chair Betty Duval also served. HECC staff provided excellent support throughout. An interim report was submitted to the legislature last September that highlighted the considerations the task force took into account including:

- Intended outcomes and determined their work should be focused on the State’s 40-40-20 goal and the operational ongoing needs and success of CCWD supporting the 17 colleges and their local boards,
- The work of a related task force on workforce coordination between the HECC and the Oregon Workforce Investment Board (OWIB) and its impact on CCWD,
- The recent legislative history pertaining to CCWD and HECC, particularly HB 3120 (2103) and HB 4018 (2014), and the current status of the two organizations, including their missions and functions,
- Statutes governing CCWD and recent governance reforms in postsecondary education, including consideration of specific job duties designated in statute to the Commissioner for Community College Services, CCWD agency oversight, support to the community colleges, and the flexibility needed for HECC leadership and local community college leadership,
- The historical background of community colleges in Oregon and the relationship between the community-focused mission of community colleges and the statewide mission of the HECC, and
- A Community College Statewide Structure & Support Principles 2013 document which was foundational for the community college participants who guided the statutory recommendations.

House Bill 2408 would:

- Change the name of the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development to the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development. This change would provide consistency within HECC and its other agency units,
- Retain the Office of CCWD within the HECC,
- Change references to the Commissioner for Community College Services to the Director of the Office of CCWD, again for consistency with other HECC agency units, and
- Transfer rulemaking authority and appropriations from CCWD to the HECC.

However, the bill is more than technical. Community college representatives on the work group were satisfied that the HECC, CCWD, and the colleges share a common understanding of the operating principles that describe our ongoing relationship.

The bill you see before you has had amendments submitted to clarify the operational distribution of duties between the two agencies that we hope to bring before you in the future.

Ben and Jim will share their insights regarding the recommendations as we continue our collaborative efforts to better serve postsecondary students. Thank you.