



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

255 Capitol Street NE, Third Floor

Salem, OR 97310

www.oregon.gov/HigherEd

March 19, 2019

Co-Chair, Senator Lew Frederick
Co-Chair, Representative Susan McLain
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Education

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain,

Thank you for the opportunity to answer questions that arose during the March 18 presentation.

In reference to tuition increase projections on Slide 117, Representative Alonso Leon requested information about data disaggregated by race/ethnicity for grant programs administered by the HECC, and we have provided this information for the Oregon Opportunity Grant and the Oregon Promise.

In **Appendix A**, we compare Oregon Promise students with community college students who are taking for-credit classes and who are not in high school. Compared to these students, Oregon Promise students are more likely to be Hispanic/LatinX and less likely to be Black/African American. We note, however, that these comparisons are limited by the number of students not reporting their race/ethnicity. The number of students not reporting is much higher (9.1%) in the comparison group of community college students than among Oregon Promise students (2.7%).

In **Appendix B**, we compare OOG students with the combined total of resident, admitted undergraduates at the public universities and community college students who are taking for-credit classes and are not in high school. Compared to these students, OOG students are more likely to be from many underserved racial/ethnic minority groups, including Asian American, Black/African American, Hispanic/LatinX, and Native American/Alaska Native. As with the distribution of Oregon Promise students, these comparisons are limited by the number of students not reporting their race/ethnicity, which is higher in the comparison group than among OOG students.

In response to Slide 103 on Oregon Opportunity Grant awards, Representative Meek inquired about the difference between *students with authorized awards* and *grant recipients*, and we provide here some additional background on the awarding process and definitions of these terms.

The HECC determines which students meet current grant criteria for the Oregon Opportunity Grant. Beginning in March of each year, and on a rolling, weekly basis, HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) authorizes additional students to receive awards. Notification of this authorization is sent to each college that a student lists on the FAFSA or ORSAA. Through this process, OSAC “authorizes” schools to deliver grant funds to the students on the weekly award lists, and also notifies these students by email of their tentative award amount soon after notifying schools. Each term, schools report to OSAC the grant amounts students actually received, based on their enrollment status. The Oregon Promise award process is handled similarly.

After being awarded, students can enroll in and attend a college or university and utilize their Opportunity Grant. At this point, they become *grant recipients* and OSAC disburses funds to the colleges and universities for each awarded student that accepts their awards when they enroll and attend their institution of choice. The

significant numerical difference in *authorized award recipients* and *grant recipients* reflect the fact that that the awards are made prior to the time a student makes their final college decision and enrolls, and OSAC understands through experience that the pickup rate for grants will be less than 100 percent of authorized awards.

If you have further questions, please contact Kyle Thomas, Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs, at kyle.thomas@state.or.us or at 503-480-9596.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Cannon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ben Cannon, Executive Director

Appendix A

Racial/Ethnic Distributions of Students Receiving Oregon Promise Grants

	OR Promise Recipients		All students	
	N	%	N	%
Asian American	404	4.3%	5,256	4.3%
Black/African American	170	1.8%	3,396	2.8%
Hispanic/LatinX	2,167	22.9%	18,207	15.0%
Native American/Alaska Native	82	0.9%	1,584	1.3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	45	0.5%	709	0.6%
Multi-race	531	5.6%	6,210	5.1%
White	5,797	61.3%	75,122	61.8%
Unknown	259	2.7%	11,070	9.1%
Total	9,455		121,554	

Source: HECC analysis of student-level data from seven public universities and 17 community colleges. Information on community college students reflects the 2017-18 academic year, and students in the "All Students" column include those taking any classes for credit who are not reported as accelerated learning (i.e., high school) students.



Appendix B

Racial/Ethnic Distributions of Students Receiving Oregon Opportunity Grants

	OOG Recipients		All students	
	N	%	N	%
Asian American	2,155	6.5%	10,210	5.3%
Black/African American	1,219	3.7%	4,854	2.5%
Hispanic/LatinX	5,888	17.8%	26,213	13.5%
Native American/Alaska Native	550	1.7%	2,408	1.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	172	0.5%	1,024	0.5%
Multi-race	2,123	6.4%	10,548	5.4%
White	19,614	59.2%	123,085	63.4%
Unknown	1,415	4.3%	15,773	8.4%
Total	33,136		194,115	

Source: HECC analysis of student-level data from seven public universities and 17 community colleges. Information on community college students reflects the 2017-18 academic year, and students in the “All Students” column include those taking any classes for credit who are not reported as accelerated learning (i.e., high school) students. Information on university students reflects the 2016-17 academic year and includes Oregon resident admitted undergraduates.

