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Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Thomsen and Members of The Committee

Subject: OCCA Supports SB 730 -5

The Oregon Community College Association supports SB 730 and believe it builds on the good work that was begun in HB 2998.

SB 730 continues this work on collegiate credit transfer and the creation of unified statewide transfer agreements (USTAs) that is reflected in current law as a result of the passage of HB 2998 in 2017.

An advisory group, the Oregon Transfer Articulation Committee (OTAC), made up of community college and university faculty and instructional administrators has been working on the foundational curriculum and USTAs for nearly 18 months. The first two USTAs, biology and english, have been approved.

The current membership of OTAC includes representation from each of the seven public universities and seven of the community colleges – some of whom also represent stakeholder groups – the HECC, the Chief Education Office, OCCA, Oregon Council of Presidents, and the Oregon Student Association. OTAC also includes an observing member representative from the state's private non-profit colleges.

SB 730 formalizes the relationship of OTAC as an advisory body to HECC by making it clear that OTAC is involved in making recommendations to HECC on the standards and processes used in the transfer work.

The purpose of the foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements (USTAs) is to ensure that students and the credits they earn in the agreed upon courses transfer seamlessly between community colleges and universities.

This is a collaborative process that has been, for the most part, working effectively. While not always easy, both community colleges and public universities have representatives chosen by their institutions at the table on both the OTAC and the USTA work groups.

SB 730 adds further clarity to work begun in 2017 to ensure students don't lose college credits when they transfer between public institution of higher education. We urge the committee to continue this good work with the passage of SB 730.