

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Higher Education Coordinating Commission Technical and Regional Universities Financial Sustainability

To:	Ways and Means Full Committee
From:	Education Subcommittee
Carrier:	Representative McLain

On February 12th, the Education Subcommittee recommended acknowledging receipt of a report from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission on an investment in the financial sustainability of Oregon’s technical and regional universities.

HECC’s 2023-25 adopted budget included a one-time \$25 million General Fund appropriation to support the financial sustainability of the Oregon Institute of Technology, Portland State University, and Western, Eastern, and Southern Oregon Universities. This included \$6.3 million for initial distributions and an \$18.7 million special purpose appropriation to the Emergency Board for potential additional grants.

A budget note directed HECC and the universities to report on how the first \$6.3 million was spent and provide proposals for the remaining funds. The universities formed a workgroup facilitated by Oregon Solutions, and HECC contracted with a third party to engage with the workgroup, analyze information, and draft the report. The 100-page report contains recommendations to inform the allocation of the \$18.7 million, including a process and criteria to evaluate proposals. The report recommends a funding ceiling for each institution, a grant timeline, and reserving \$2.5 million for collaborative projects. The report anticipates funding will be granted by HECC on a rolling basis beginning in June 2024.

The Education Subcommittee recommends approval.