

OCCA Report  
November 14, 2018  
Doris Lathrop, Trustee

### **OCCA Annual Conference**

I attended the OCCA annual conference November 7-9 at the Sun River Resort. The theme was Pathways to Prosperity: Empowering Communities. At the Howard Cherry Award banquet, both Betty Tamm and Wendy Weikum were honored for their 12 years of service to the UCC Board of Education. Steve accepted the awards for them.

I've attended close to twenty OCCA conferences both during my tenure at the college and as a board member. This was one of the most valuable and insightful that I've had the pleasure to experience. I was impressed that Representative Gary Leif attended the conference. Not only was he there to participate in the break-out session on Election Briefing and Legislator Q&A, but he attended other keynote addresses and sessions. During the Pathways to Affordability: The 2019 Legislative Session and Local Organizing session put on by PCC, Gary commented that it's not just the legislators that we need to convince when campaigning for the \$787M ask. He said he needs to justify his support of community colleges to his district citizens, so if they are not on board he can't be supportive. We need to create a task force locally comprised of the Chamber of Commerce representatives as well as local businesses in an effort to get the public on board with supporting our request. Letters of support (using the same language that the college is using for their request) from business leaders and public officials are more important than those from the colleges themselves.

Cam Preus was in attendance and was just finishing her first week on the job as the new executive director of OCCA.

### **Legislative Update**

As a reminder, this upcoming legislative session, community colleges across Oregon have three budget priorities: Current Service Level, Career and Technical Education, and Student Support Services.

2017-2019 CCSF Funding	\$570M
<b>2019-2021 Budget Request</b>	
2019-2021 True Continued Service Level (CSL)	\$647M
Double CTE Grads	\$70M
Expand Student Success Efforts	\$70M
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$787M</b>

### **National Update (from Law-Alert)**

“Legislatively, the prospect of a full reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) remains murky. Current Chairwoman, Virginia Foxx’s [PROSPER Act](#) would not be able to advance under the incoming leadership. House Democrats introduced their own HEA reauthorization bill (the [Aim Higher Act](#)) this summer under the sponsorship of Congressman Bobby Scott. While that bill could potentially

advance in a Democratically held House it would face an uphill battle in the Senate. Mr. Scott's staff has indicated that they would like to work with Dr. Foxx's staff to negotiate a bipartisan HEA bill. If those negotiations were to commence it's unlikely that either Dr. Foxx or Mr. Scott would reintroduce a partisan HEA bill at the start of the 116th Congress."

**Next OCCA Meeting**

The next OCCA Board meeting will be held at UCC on December 6-7. We look forward to hosting our counterparts across the state. This will be a wonderful opportunity for any of our board members to sit in on the meeting and get a feel for participating at the state level. It's a public meeting and all are welcome to observe.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent UCC and the UCC Board of Education at OCCA.