

OCCA Report
April, 2018
Doris Lathrop, Trustee

The OCCA Board of Directors has not met since our last Board meeting. However, the following communication has been received from the OCCA office to all Board members, and I wish to share it with you as a portion of my April report.

Dear OCCA Members,

After 18 years as the Executive Director, Andrea Henderson is leaving OCCA to start a political consulting company.

During her OCCA tenure, Andrea regularly demonstrated her deep knowledge of community colleges and related public policy issues. She has clearly enjoyed advocacy on behalf of community colleges and made a positive contribution to many legislative bills, budgets, and laws impacting community colleges and our students across Oregon.

Andrea has become widely known in the Oregon State Capitol as an expert on community college issues. She worked to advance state policies and budgets to better prepare community college students as both productive workers and engaged citizens.

We thank Andrea for her service at OCCA. Please join us in wishing her well in her next venture.

Andrea can be reached at andrea@hendersonlegislativeconsulting.com or on her cell at 503-881-1176. Below is a letter from her to the OCCA community.

The OCCA Board recently named Deputy Director John Wykoff as Interim Executive Director until the board completes its search for a new Executive Director. John can be reached at jwykoff@occa17.com.

March 30, 2018

To: OCCA Board of Directors
From: Andrea Henderson
RE: Transitions

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as your Executive Director for the last 18 years. I am proud of all we have accomplished together in that time, both in advocacy for our students and in our collaboration with each other.

Community colleges feed my soul. I feel so fortunate to have worked daily with intelligent, committed people who consistently strive to make a difference. I am in awe of our students and their ability to persevere through difficulties I can't even imagine.

However, it is time for new leadership at the OCCA and time for me to start the next chapter in my life. I am excited to be starting my own consulting business where I will focus on advocacy, both in Oregon and for community colleges nationally.

I am proud of the many accomplishments throughout my time at the Oregon Community College Association.

I appreciate the opportunities my role at OCCA has afforded me, and the relationships I have made. It has been a wonderful 18 years and I know I leave the association in good hands with the next Executive Director.

Andrea

Although the federal legislation is not technically OCCA business, I have always felt that it's important for our Board to stay informed of national issues that impact our college. Therefore, as I have always done in the past, I'm including the Law Alert information as a part of the OCCA report.

FY 2018 Omnibus Package Includes Increases for Higher Ed Programs

Last evening, House and Senate appropriators released a final FY 2018 funding package. The House passed the bill this afternoon by a vote of 256 – 167. The Senate is expected to consider the bill prior to the expiration of the current short-term funding bill at midnight on Friday.

The bill includes a \$3.9 billion increase for programs under the Department of Education. February's budget agreement raised existing funding caps allowing for both defense and nondefense discretionary programs. This paved the way for increased funding levels. Below are key community college programs and funding levels in the FY 2018 bill.

Pell Grants – The Pell Grant maximum award is increased by \$175 for the upcoming academic year, raising the award from \$5,920 to \$6,095. The Pell Grant surplus is largely utilized to fund this increase. There are no further rescissions of the surplus included in the bill.

Federal Work Study (FWS) – The FWS program received a \$140 million increase bringing total funding to \$1.130 billion.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) - The FSEOG program received a \$107 million increase bringing total funding to \$840 million.

TRIO and GEAR UP - TRIO programs received a \$60 million increase with a total appropriation of \$1.010 billion. GEAR UP received a \$10 million increase with a total appropriation of \$350 million.

Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) – State grants under Perkins CTE received a \$75 million increase with a total appropriation of \$1.193 billion.

Adult Basic Education – State grants under Adult Ed received a \$35 million increase with a total appropriation of \$631 million.

Aid for Institutional Development (all programs received a 14.3% increase)

- Title III-A, Strengthening Institutions - \$12 million increase, bringing total funding to \$99 million.
- Strengthening Hispanic Serving Institutions - \$17 million increase, bringing total funding to \$134 million.
- Strengthening Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities - \$4 million increase, bringing total funding to \$32 million.
- Strengthening Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions - \$478,000 increase, bringing total funding to \$4 million.
- Strengthening Predominately Black Institutions - \$1.4 million increase, bringing total funding to \$11 million.
- Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities - \$35 million increase, bringing total funding to \$280 million.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – State grants under WIOA received an \$80 million increase, with a total appropriation of \$2.8 billion.

Child Care Access Means Parents In School (CCAMPIS) Grants – CCAMPIS received a \$35 million increase, bringing total funding to \$50 million.

The FY 2018 funding package also includes \$350 million to assist borrowers who are seeking Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), but are presently ineligible because they are not in the correct repayment plan. The bill also expands eligibility under Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants for children of first responders who died in the line of duty.

Two new pilot programs were funded under the bill. The Department of Education will administer a \$1 million pilot grant program to support technological upgrades for community colleges for the purpose of supporting cybersecurity programs. The Department will also administer a \$5 million pilot to support projects at institutions of higher education that create new open textbooks or expand their current use.

The bill also seeks to prevent the Department of Education from making certain modifications to the servicing of federal student loans, including awarding unique portions of the servicing portfolio to a single servicer. The language calls for servicers to be eligible for federal contracts on the basis of performance using a common set of metrics. Additionally, the bill bars the Department of Education from using funds to reorganize or decentralize the department's Budget Service Office.

Once the funding bill passes both chambers, it's expected to be signed into law by the President.