

BP 7800 Work After Retirement

References:

ORS 238.082;
OAR 459-017-0060

The Board of Education recognizes that, in certain circumstances, the employment of retired Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) members following retirement may serve the operational and educational interests of the College.

The Board delegates authority to the President to approve post-retirement employment arrangements for eligible retirees, consistent with applicable state and federal laws, administrative rules, collective bargaining agreements, and College procedures.

Post-retirement employment is not guaranteed and shall be approved only when determined to be in the best interest of the College. Such employment shall be subject to review and conditions established by the College.

The President or designee shall establish administrative procedures governing post-retirement employment, including eligibility, approval processes, compliance requirements, and conditions of employment.

See also BP 7110.

Rescinds Policy Number: None

Adopted:

BP 3410 Nondiscrimination

References:

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII) and 42 U.S. Code Section 2000e
The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967(ADEA) and 29 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1625 et seq.;
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and 29 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1630 et seq.;
ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA);
Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) and 29 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1635.1 et seq.;
29 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1601.1 et seq. – Discrimination based on National Origin;
29 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1606 et seq. – Religious Discrimination;
Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 (PDA) and 29 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1604.10
ORS 659A

~~The Rogue Community College is committed to equal opportunity in educational programs, employment, and all access to institutional programs and activities.~~ Rogue Community College is committed to providing equal opportunity in education, employment, and participation in all College programs, services, and activities.

The ~~Rogue Community~~ College, and each individual who represents the Rogue Community College, shall provide access to its programs, services, classes, and activities~~services, classes, and programs~~ without regard to the individual's legally protected status.

Legally protected status is defined as ~~pertaining to:~~ sex, gender, national origin, religion, age, gender identity, race, color, genetic information, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, military and veteran status, pregnancy, race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, disability, age, pregnancy, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws. The ~~Rogue Community College~~ President shall establish administrative procedures that ensure all members of the college community can present complaints regarding alleged violations of this policy and have their complaints heard in accordance with state and federal laws regarding nondiscrimination.

No District funds shall ever be used for membership, or for any participation involving financial payment or contribution on behalf of the District or any individual employed by or associated with it, to any private organization whose membership practices are discriminatory on the basis of national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, race,



Rogue Community CollegeRogue Community College

color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, military and veteran status, pregnancy.
race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status,

disability, age, pregnancy, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.

Rescinds Policy Number: V.A.010, V.B.050

Adopted: June 18, 2019

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BP 3420 Equal Employment Opportunity

References:

~~Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII) and 42 U.S. Code Section 2000e~~
~~Title VI: 34 CFR 100.3(b)~~
~~Title IX: 34 CFR 106.38~~
~~The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967(ADEA) and 29 Code of~~
~~Federal Regulations Parts 1625 et seq.;~~
~~Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and 29 Code of Federal~~
~~Regulations Parts 1630 et seq.;~~
~~ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA);~~
~~Section 504: 34 CFR 104.46(b)~~
~~The Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Fair Pay Act of 2009~~
~~Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) and 29~~
~~Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1635.1 et seq.;~~
~~29 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1601.1 et seq. — Discrimination based on~~
~~National Origin;~~
~~29 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1606 et seq. — Religious Discrimination;~~
~~Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 (PDA) and 29 Code of Federal Regulations~~
~~Part 1604.10;~~
~~ORS 659A and 654~~
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII) and 42 U.S. Code Section 2000e
The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967(ADEA) and 29 Code of
Federal Regulations Parts 1625 et seq.;

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and 29 Code of Federal
Regulations Parts 1630 et seq.;

ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA);

Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) and 29
Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1635.1 et seq.;

29 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1601.1 et seq. – Discrimination based on
National Origin;

29 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1606 et seq. – Religious Discrimination;

Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 (PDA) and 29 Code of Federal Regulations
Part 1604.10;

ORS 659A

~~Rogue Community College shall provide equal employment opportunities to all applicants~~
~~and employees regardless of race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language,~~
~~national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status,~~
~~disability, age, pregnancy, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state,~~
~~or local laws. Rogue Community College is committed to providing equal employment~~

opportunities and fostering a work environment in which employees from a wide variety of backgrounds are welcomed and supported. The Board recognizes that diversity in the academic workplace promotes cultural awareness, mutual understanding, and respect, and strengthens the College's ability to serve students and the community.

Rogue Community College shall provide equal employment opportunities to all applicants and employees and shall not discriminate on the basis of any protected status under applicable federal or state law.

The President or designee shall establish administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy and ensure compliance with applicable federal and state employment laws.

Rescinds Policy Number: V.A.010

Adopted: March 17, 2020

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BP 3900 Expressive Conduct

References:

NWCCU 2020 Standard 2.B.1 & 2.B.2

ORS 260.432

ORS 341.290

AP 3900 – Expressive Conduct

BP 3430 and AP 3430 – Prohibition of Discrimination and Harassment

AP 3432 – Workplace Harassment

Purpose

To establish content neutral parameters of time, place, and manner for the diverse forms of free expression. One of the ways that Rogue Community College (RCC) fulfills its mission is by maintaining an environment that supports and enables the free exchange of ideas without regard to the viewpoint expressed, yet ensures that the educational environment for delivering accessible, quality education is preserved for the students and communities we serve. Rogue Community College (RCC) supports the free exchange of ideas and expression of diverse viewpoints in a manner consistent with the College's mission and public educational environment.

Policy Summary

RCC fully supports the rights of students, employees, and members of the public to engage in expressive speech and other lawful forms of free expression on College property, regardless of viewpoint, subject to reasonable time, place, and manner regulations established by the College.

The College shall not regulate expressive speech based on content or viewpoint. RCC may establish content-neutral administrative procedures necessary to support campus safety, preserve the orderly operation of the College, and maintain an environment conducive to teaching, learning, and student success.

The College President is authorized to establish administrative procedures governing expressive conduct on College property, including the designation and use of public forum areas.

Expressive conduct that violates applicable law or College policy, including policies

~~prohibiting discrimination, harassment, threats, intimidation, or substantial disruption of College operations, is not protected under this policy. RCC fully supports open expression and free speech by students, employees and the public. This is called “expressive conduct” and includes speech, literature distribution, displays or signs, petition circulation, and other forms of free expression. RCC does not regulate the content of expressive conduct; however, to maintain safety and the college mission, RCC does regulate the time, place, and manner of these activities on college property. Students, employees, and members of the public shall be free to exercise their rights of free expression, subject to the requirements of this policy. The campuses of RCC are Non-public Forums, except for those areas that are designated public forums available for the exercise of expression by students, employees, and members of the public.~~

~~The College President shall enact such administrative procedures as are necessary to reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of the exercise of free expression in the designated public forums.~~

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~~The administrative procedures shall not prohibit the right of students to exercise free expression, including but not limited to the use of bulletin boards, the distribution of printed materials or petitions, and the wearing of buttons, badges, or other insignia.~~

~~Speech shall be prohibited that violates the College's Prohibition on Discrimination, Harassment and Intimidation in violation of AP 3430, BP 3430 and AP 3432, or which so incites others as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on RCC property, or is a violation of AP 3900 Expressive Conduct, or creates substantial disruption of the orderly operation of RCC.~~

Rescinds Policy Number: II.A. 010, VII.C.060

Adopted: June 18, 2019

Revised: August 15, 2023

Accreditation reference updated January 22, 2020

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Annual Board Organization for Fiscal Year 2026/27

Recommendation of the President: That the Rogue Community College (RCC) Board of Education (Board) adopts Resolution No. P1-26/27, approving election of officers, establishing the Board of Education regular meeting schedule, and designating the custodian of funds and bank depositories for college funds for fiscal year 2026/27 (see Exhibits A and B).

Background Information: Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 341.283 Organization; meetings; quorum; rules; journal; expenses (in part):

- *After July 1 of each year, the board of a district shall meet and organize by electing a chairperson and a vice chairperson from its members.*
- *The board shall provide for the time and place of its regular meetings.*

Pursuant to ORS 341.703 Custodian of funds; depositories; signature on checks; warrants as checks (in part):

- *The board of a community college district shall designate a custodian of funds of the district.*
- *For the purpose of receiving deposits of community college funds, the board of the district shall designate such bank or banks, as the board deems safe and proper depositories for district funds.*

Whereas, according to the above-referenced Oregon Revised Statutes the Board must annually approve the election of chair and vice chair; and

Whereas, the Board has established its regular meeting schedule; and

Whereas, the Board has designated a custodian of funds and bank depositories for fiscal year 2026/27; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the RCC Board of Education adopts Resolution No. P1-26/27 approving the attached Annual Board Organization (Exhibits A and B) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Board Action: Approved

Vanessa Jones, Chair, RCC Board of Education

Dated: July 21, 2026



2026/27 Annual Board Organization

1. Election of Officers
 - A. Board Chair: Jonathan Bilden
 - B. Vice Chair: Maria Ramos Underwood
2. Custodian of Funds/Signatory: Lisa Stanton
 - a. Alternate/Substitute Signatory (checks): Jamee Harrington, Dave Koehler, Michael Pollock, and Randy Weber
3. Depositories for College Funds
 - a. US Bank
 - b. Computershare
 - c. Local Government Investment Pool



2026/27 Regular Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Date	Time	Location
7/21/26	5:00 p.m.	TRC/Zoom
8/18/26	5:00 p.m.	RWC/Zoom
9/14/26	5:00 p.m.	TRC/Zoom
10/20/26	5:00 p.m.	RWC/Zoom
11/17/26	5:00 p.m.	TRC/Zoom
12/15/26	5:00 p.m.	RWC/Zoom
1/19/27	5:00 p.m.	TRC/Zoom
2/16/27	5:00 p.m.	RWC/Zoom
3/16/27	5:00 p.m.	TRC/Zoom
4/20/27	5:00 p.m.	RWC/Zoom
5/18/27	5:00 p.m.	TRC/Zoom
6/15/27	5:00 p.m.	RWC/Zoom

Campus Addresses

Redwood Campus (RWC)
Building H, Room 2
3345 Redwood Highway, Grants Pass, OR

Table Rock Campus (TRC)
Building A, Room 123A
7800 Pacific Avenue, White City, OR

RCC Board and President Team Agreements

At the August 22, 2023, RCC Board Retreat, the board and President agreed that having a set of Team Agreements will demonstrate mutual respect and accountability. Board members and the President value the different cultures, roles, strengths and experience of fellow board members and staff as well as transparency and predictability in working together by avoiding *surprises*.

Set in no particular order board members agreed to:

1. Come to meetings on time and prepared, having reviewed the materials in advance and report unavailability to board chair and President's office;
2. Speak with one voice and respect the decisions and commitments of the board;
3. Listen generously, assume positive intent and question assumptions by looking for new insights;
4. Engage in open, honest and kind interactions by showing respect for the ideas and opinions of others;
5. Praise publicly, celebrate accomplishments and provide constructive feedback in private;
6. Exhibit the highest of integrity by adhering to the Board's conflict of interest policy;
7. Go to the source of a concern for resolution and express grievances to the board chair and/or President privately;
8. Direct instructional and operational questions to the college President, especially when receiving reports from departments and college associations and direct governance questions to the chair;
9. Refer all questions from the press to the college President and board chair;
10. Respond to requests from the President's office within 72 hours; and
11. Forward student complaints to the President and Board Chair and authorize the Assistant to the President to respond on behalf of the Board by acknowledging receipt of the complaint and directing the student to the appropriate channels.

The President agrees to:

1. Focus the board's work on policy matters and ensure that administrative reports provide a high-level summary of key decision items;
2. Assist in board agenda development by stating which items are report/informational and which are discussion/action items;
3. Limit day-of additions to the published board agenda to rare occasions due to time urgency;
4. Ensure proposed changes to policy include both red-line or strikethrough versions to track changes along with the requisite administrative procedure when applicable;
5. Ensure board members understand the use of all acronyms and abbreviations when used in board materials; and
6. Utilize weekly updates to follow up with the Board regarding any outstanding student complaints that were acknowledged by the Assistant to the President.

Acknowledged: 12/19/2023; 8/15/2024; 2/18/2025; 8/19/2025

Approve 2026/27 Tuition and Fee Correction

Recommendation of the President: The Rogue Community College (RCC) Board of Education (Board) adopts Resolution No. B2-26/27 approving a correction to the amendment of the 2026/27 Student Fee Schedule adopted in Resolution B33-25/26 (March 17, 2026).

Background Information: RCC's tuition rates, including fees, are determined by Resolution Nos. P28-96/97 and P53-96/97 (December 1996), and B76-98/99 (1998).

At the March 17, 2026 Board meeting, the Board approved the amendments to the fee schedule, beginning in Summer term, 2026. Since this approval, two apprenticeship-related items have been identified; that require correction.

The first item is a correction for the Millwright Apprenticeship program, courses APR216 A-G. The previously approved tuition rate of \$335 should be adjusted to \$320, a decrease of \$15 per course. This change is requested to ensure consistency across comparable courses. These courses are intended to maintain an equivalent tuition structure.

Second, we are requesting an increase of \$30 in tuition for the Plumbing Apprenticeship program courses (APR111 A-F and APR211 A-F), from \$345 to \$375, as well as the addition of a \$50 fee per plumbing course to compensate the Apprenticeship Department for services provided to this program. These adjustments – both the fee and the tuition rate – reflect the established contractual agreement between RCC and the Area V Plumbers JATC. This amount and any associated increases are determined by that committee.

It is important to note that the Plumbing program operates differently from other Apprenticeship programs at the College. The Director of Apprenticeship does not directly coordinate the Plumbing program. Instead, it is administered by an external Plumbing Coordinator who oversees program operations statewide under a contractual agreement between the Area V Plumbers JATC and the College. As such, tuition adjustments for Plumbing are made in alignment with that external agreement rather than internal program structures.

Whereas, RCC tuition rates are reviewed annually in the Budget process and determined in accordance with Resolution Nos. P28-96/97, P53-96/97, and B76-98/99

Whereas, the College recognizes updates in the changes to the tuition and course fees schedule, previously adopted by the Board in Resolution B33-25/26 at its March 17, 2026 meeting

Whereas, the College proposes adjusting the tuition schedule for apprenticeship programs: Millwright (APR216 A-G) to \$320 per course; and Plumbing (APR111 A-F and APR211 A-F) to \$375 per course, plus a \$50 fee per plumbing course.

Resolved, that the RCC Board of Education adopts Resolution No. B2-26/27 approving the changes to the 2026/27 Tuition Schedule, effective summer term 2026.

Board Action: Approved

Vanessa Jones, Chair, RCC Board of Education

Dated: July 21, 2026

Emeritus Status – Michael McClure

Recommendation of the President: That the Rogue Community College (RCC) Board of Education (Board) adopt Resolution No. P3-26/27 awarding the honor of Emeritus Status to Michael McClure.

Background Information: In accordance with Board Policy BP-2800: Emeritus Status, the RCC Board may grant Emeritus Status to any RCC employee who has served the institution for at least 15 years of continuous service. Emeritus Status should be reserved to honor an individual who has provided outstanding and distinguished service to RCC.

Outstanding and distinguished service is defined as service which goes beyond the routine duties and responsibilities of the appointment, and which have had an extraordinary impact on the College and/or the broader community. Outstanding and distinguished service would exceed that of an average satisfactory performance.

Emeritus Status is given to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional commitment and contributions to RCC, exemplifying the highest standards of the College's core values, vision and leadership. The designation identifies the employee as a continuing member of the RCC community.

Nomination to bestow the honor of Emeritus Status upon Michael McClure was provided by Richard Plott, Chief Information Officer, and supported by Lisa Stanton, Vice President of Operations & Finance (see file).

Whereas, the RCC Board has agreed to honor qualified RCC staff with the Emeritus Status title; and

Whereas, Michael McClure has been recommended for this honor by Richard Plott; and

Whereas, President Weber has approved the recommendation for submission to the Board for full consideration.; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the RCC Board adopts Resolution No. P3-26/27 awarding the honor of Emeritus Status to Michael McClure.

Board Action: Approved

Vanessa Jones, Chair, RCC Board of Education

Dated: July 21, 2026

OCCA Update for College Boards – July 2026

Community College Current Service Level Update

On June 23, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) announced that the Department of Administrative Services Chief Financial Office (DAS-CFO) had revised the 2027-29 current service level (CSL) calculation for community colleges. The updated estimate is approximately 13.7%, down from the 17.8% HECC presented to its Commission on June 10-11. The revised estimate remains above the 7.5% Community College Support Fund increase developed by Oregon's community colleges.

According to HECC, DAS-CFO revised the calculation to align it with current source data and CSL methodology. The earlier model applied a 0% growth rate to pension obligation bond (POB) payments, effectively carrying the prior debt-service cost into 2027-29 without an increase. The updated model reduces those costs where bond obligations expire or mature and no payment continues into the new biennium.

The revised CSL remains a technical state budget calculation, not a final funding recommendation or a complete estimate of college need. It does not account for the \$167 million colleges are spending from reserves in the current biennium to support ongoing operations. Without enough ongoing revenue to replace that one-time support, colleges would need to continue drawing down reserves, increase tuition, or reduce programs and services.

HECC is expected to approve its Agency Request Budget on August 23. The Governor's Recommended Budget is scheduled for release on December 1, and the Legislature will make final funding decisions during the 2027 Legislative Session. Given the state's essentially flat revenue outlook and the requirement that the Governor submit a balanced budget, colleges should not treat the 13.7% CSL as an expected funding level.

BOARD MEMBER ACTION:

- **Read more about the proposed CSL** by [clicking here](#) for an FAQ document.

Workforce Pell Learning Lab

OCCA was pleased to help support the Workforce Pell Learning Lab, held June 23 at Chemeketa Community College's Wine Studies Center. The interactive workshop brought together more than 120 participants, with representatives from nearly every Oregon community college, to move from Workforce Pell awareness to action.

Throughout the day, participants assessed readiness, identified institutional barriers and state-level dependencies, explored Oregon-focused tools and real program scenarios, and developed practical next steps to support implementation.

OCCA extends its thanks to Chemeketa Community College for hosting, and to the day's

presenters for sharing their time and expertise: Kamille Seward and Jimmy LeDuc from Education Design Lab; Julia Pontoni and Donna Lewelling from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission; and Kate Kinder from the National Council for Workforce Education. The strong turnout reflected Oregon's shared commitment to strengthening workforce pathways and expanding opportunities for students across the state.

BOARD MEMBER ACTION:

- **Check in with your president** to hear feedback from the **college's team that attended** to learn more about your college's plan for short term programs that may be Workforce Pell eligible.

Lunch & Learn Recap: Executive Sessions & Public Meetings Law

OCCA Senior Policy Advisor and General Counsel Karen Smith presented at the final 2025-26 OCCA Lunch & Learn on June 25, "Oregon Public Meetings Law: Can the Board Discuss This Issue in Closed Session?" The presentation focused on executive sessions and the legal requirements for boards to meet in closed session under Oregon Public Meetings Law. Karen reviewed the limited executive session exemptions, news media access requirements, and guidance for board members on maintaining transparency and compliance when deliberating and making decisions. As a reminder, final decisions or actions may not occur in closed session.

Thank you to all who were able to join us. Board members who were unable to attend – or who would like to revisit the discussion – can view the recording by [clicking here](#).

BOARD MEMBER ACTION:

- Didn't have a chance to attend the June Lunch & Learn? [View the recording online](#) at your convenience. All Lunch & Learn webinar recordings from the last three years are available at that link.

2026 OCCA Conference Call for Presentations

The annual OCCA Conference is set for November 4-6 at Sunriver Resort in central Oregon. This year's theme highlights how "Community Colleges Work for Oregon" and the critical role board members, college leaders, and partners play in that success.

OCCA has issued a call for breakout session proposals, and invites dynamic, engaging proposals for breakout sessions that showcase innovative practices, effective strategies, and meaningful outcomes that demonstrate how community colleges are working for students, communities, and the state. Breakout session tracks will include how Community Colleges Work for:

- Board Leadership & Governance
- Student Success & Institutional Effectiveness
- Oregon's Economy & Communities
- Advocacy & Investment

OCCA encourages proposals that highlight innovative approaches across all topic areas, including the use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, new service delivery models, and creative strategies that improve outcomes, strengthen governance, and advance community impact.

Conference session proposals are due by August 14 and must be submitted using OCCA's online form. Find more information about proposal submissions by visiting OCCA's Conference web page: <https://occa17.com/conference/>

BOARD MEMBER ACTION:

- Work with your president to **consider submitting a proposal** for a conference breakout session highlighting your college's innovative work, successful program or other lesson learned. Be sure to [proposals must be submitted](#) by 5:00 p.m. PST on August 14.

2026 Howard Cherry Awards Nominations

The annual OCCA Howard Cherry Awards are now accepting nominations for Outstanding Board Member, Outstanding Advocate and Outstanding Administrator. The awards will be presented during the OCCA Conference on November 5 at Sunriver Resort in Sunriver, OR.

All submissions must be made using OCCA's online nomination form no later than August 14. For more information on nomination requirements and submission details, visit OCCA's website: <https://occa17.com/conference/>.

BOARD MEMBER ACTION:

- Consider making a nomination and [submit](#) by August 14.

Board Governance & Leadership Survey

The OCCA Member Services Committee is seeking your input to help shape future governance education, leadership development, and professional learning opportunities for Oregon's community college board members and leaders. As part of the Committee's 2025-26 goals, OCCA has launched the Governance & Leadership Education Needs Survey to better understand the training, resource, and support needs of locally elected board members and presidents around the state.

Your feedback will directly inform:

- Board education and governance programming
- Annual Conference and professional development planning
- Future training topics and resource development
- Strategies to strengthen statewide board engagement and leadership support

The survey should take approximately 10–15 minutes to complete, and responses will help

ensure OCCA's future offerings are aligned with the real needs and priorities of our member colleges. The Member Services Committee has set a goal of achieving an 80% response rate statewide, and we would greatly appreciate your participation. The survey will close soon, so please take the opportunity to submit your feedback ASAP!

To take the survey, use this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y8JCXMF>

BOARD MEMBER ACTION:

- If you haven't already done so, please **take the Board Leadership & Governance Survey** by [clicking here](#).

OCCA Digest e-newsletter

The *OCCA Digest* is a monthly e-newsletter that highlights updates during the Legislative Session, important events, news, and announcements. It is a great way to stay connected with information important to community colleges in Oregon and learn how you can take action to support colleges and students. The newsletter is published the first Thursday of each month, *except during a legislative session, at which time it becomes a weekly publication that comes out on Thursdays.*

To sign up to receive this free e-newsletter, visit <https://occa17.com/resources/newsletter/> and click the "Sign Up" button. The OCCA Digest will come from OCCA Executive Support Specialist Laura Crook at laura@occa17.com, so be sure to add her email to your contacts to ensure the email arrives in your inbox and not your spam folder.

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The Oregon Community College Association was founded in 1962 with the purpose of providing support to the colleges before policymakers and partners whose actions affect the wellbeing of community colleges across the state. OCCA represents the 17 publicly chartered community colleges and their locally elected board members. Leading with racial equity, we advocate, communicate, and collaborate to strengthen community colleges for the benefit of Oregonians, particularly those historically underserved or systemically marginalized in higher education. Have questions about OCCA and our work to support Oregon's community colleges? Contact occa@occa17.com.

ROGUE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Government Affairs Report

June 1 through June 30, 2026

Prepared for

RCC Board of Trustees

Prepared by

United Strategies & Consulting, LLC

218 W 6th Street • Medford, OR | www.ustrategies.org

“If you are not at the table, you are on the menu.”

Executive Summary

June 2026 brought the Southern Oregon University financial crisis to a decisive juncture, advanced the federal fiscal year 2027 education spending bill through the House Appropriations Committee, and set the stage for two federal student aid changes that take effect July 1. Each development carries direct or indirect implications for Rogue Community College.

At the state level, the Legislative Emergency Board met on June 17 and approved the release of \$7.5 million to Southern Oregon University, the first half of a possible \$15 million package routed through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

The following day, the SOU Board of Trustees unanimously adopted its Vitality Plan, a restructuring of roughly \$20 million that eliminates three academic programs, cuts more than 60 full-time positions, and reorganizes departments.

Several legislators used the June discussion to signal that the financial pressures at SOU are not unique and that broader changes to Oregon's higher education system are likely. Work continued on the House Bill 4124 study of all seven public universities and all 17 community colleges, including RCC.

At the federal level, the House Appropriations Committee advanced its fiscal year 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill on June 9. The bill protects several

programs the administration had proposed to eliminate, including TRIO, GEAR UP, and the Pell Grant program, while reducing others and eliminating subsidized undergraduate loans beginning in 2027.

Two major federal student aid changes enacted under the 2025 reconciliation law take effect July 1, the start of the new award year. These are the launch of the Workforce Pell Grant program for short-term training and a restructuring of federal student loan repayment plans and borrowing limits.

Locally, June marked budget adoption season under Oregon Local Budget Law, with counties, cities, school districts, and special districts required to adopt fiscal year 2026-27 budgets by June 30.

The Jackson County Library District finalized a budget that ends Sunday service at its Medford and Ashland branches and eliminates the equivalent of 12.5 positions.

Josephine County moved through a series of budget hearings in late June, adopting its county budget and the budgets of two service districts.

Quick Reference: Key Actions at a Glance

Level / Source	Action / Decision
Federal — House Appropriations (June 9, 2026)	House Appropriations Committee advanced the FY 2027 Labor, HHS, Education bill on a party-line vote. Proposes roughly \$70.7 billion for the Department of Education, about a 10 percent reduction from FY 2026. Raises the maximum Pell Grant by \$50 to \$7,445 and adds mandatory funding to address the Pell shortfall. Increases TRIO and GEAR UP by \$6 million each. Eliminates subsidized undergraduate loans beginning July 1, 2027, and cuts SEOG and Federal Work-Study.
Federal — Effective July 1, 2026	Workforce Pell Grant program launches for short-term programs of 150 to 599 clock hours. Federal student loan repayment plans and borrowing limits are restructured under the 2025 reconciliation law for the new award year.

Level / Source	Action / Decision
State — Legislative Emergency Board (June 17, 2026)	Approved release of \$7.5 million to Southern Oregon University, the first half of a possible \$15 million package through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Two members objected. The remaining \$7.5 million may be released in the fall, conditioned on continued financial reporting.
State — SOU Board of Trustees (June 18, 2026)	Unanimously adopted the Vitality Plan. Eliminates three academic programs (human service, music industry and production, and financial mathematics), cuts more than 60 full-time positions, and reorganizes departments to address a projected \$12.5 million deficit.
State — HB 4124 Study (ongoing)	HECC study of all seven public universities and 17 community colleges, including RCC, continues. Draft report due mid-October 2026, final report April 2027.
Local — Jackson County Library District (June 2026)	Adopted FY 2026-27 budget of \$17.5 million in expenses against \$16.3 million in projected revenue. Ends Sunday service at the Medford and Ashland branches, eliminates the equivalent of 12.5 positions, and adjusts hours at several branches.
Local — Josephine County (June 23-24, 2026)	Held public hearings and adopted the FY 2026-27 county budget along with the budgets of the 4-H Extension Service District and the Law Enforcement Service District. Retained ten new Sheriff's Office positions tied to the Law Enforcement Service District.

I. Federal Actions — Trump Administration and Congress

House Fiscal Year 2027 Education Spending Bill (June 9, 2026)

The House Appropriations Committee advanced its fiscal year 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies spending bill on June 9 by a party-line vote. The bill proposes approximately \$70.7 billion for the Department of Education, a reduction of about 10 percent from the fiscal year 2026 enacted level.

The bill takes a mixed approach. It rejects several of the most far-reaching reductions the administration proposed in its budget request. Federal TRIO programs would receive about \$1.197 billion, an increase of \$6 million, and GEAR UP would receive about \$394 million, also a \$6 million increase. Both programs support first-generation, low-income, and rural students on the path to and through college. The bill also maintains Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants at \$1.385 billion.

The bill addresses the projected Pell Grant shortfall as well.

It would raise the maximum Pell Grant award by \$50 to \$7,445 and provide \$16.27 billion in mandatory funding to stabilize the program. The mechanism used to pay for these investments has drawn attention.

The bill would eliminate Federal Direct Subsidized Loans for undergraduate students beginning July 1, 2027, reduce the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program by close to 40 percent, and cut Federal Work-Study by more than a quarter.

The committee vote is one step in a longer process. The bill must still move through the full House, the Senate, and a conference before any provisions become law. Congress faces a **September 30 deadline** to complete fiscal year 2027 appropriations or risk a government shutdown.

For community colleges, the practical significance is twofold. The preservation of TRIO, GEAR UP, and a stabilized Pell Grant program would protect core access and affordability tools. The reductions to campus-based aid, including SEOG and Federal Work-Study, along with the eventual loss of subsidized undergraduate loans, would affect the financial aid packages institutions can assemble for students.

Workforce Pell Grant Program Takes Effect July 1, 2026

The Workforce Pell Grant program becomes effective on July 1, 2026, the start of the 2026-27 award year. Authorized under the 2025 federal reconciliation law, the program extends Pell Grant eligibility for the first time to short-term workforce training programs of 150 to 599 clock hours that can be completed in 8 to 15 weeks and that lead to a recognized credential in a high-demand field.

The Department of Education published the final rule on May 19, and institutions may begin implementation on July 1.

States, through their governors and workforce boards, determine which occupations and programs qualify, and programs must meet completion and job placement benchmarks. Eligible fields commonly include healthcare, skilled trades, transportation, and information technology.

Federal Student Loan Changes Take Effect July 1, 2026

A set of federal student loan changes enacted under the 2025 reconciliation law also takes effect July 1. For loans disbursed on or after that date, repayment options for new borrowers narrow to a revised Standard Repayment Plan and a new Repayment Assistance Plan.

The SAVE plan has ended, and Pay As You Earn and Income-Contingent Repayment are phased out for new borrowers.

New borrowing limits also begin, including annual and lifetime caps for graduate students and a restructuring of Parent PLUS loans. The Department of Education moved during the spring to finalize the rules implementing the new graduate and professional loan limits on this timeline.

II. Oregon State Developments — Higher Education

June Legislative Days and the Emergency Board Action on SOU

The Legislature met in Salem for interim Legislative Days in mid-June.

The Interim Subcommittee on Higher Education met on June 15, and the Legislative Emergency Board met on June 17.

The central higher education action was the Emergency Board's approval of \$7.5 million for Southern Oregon University.

The \$7.5 million is the first half of a possible \$15 million package approved earlier in the year and routed through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The remaining \$7.5 million could be released in the fall. The funding carries conditions. SOU must implement its sustainability plan, submit monthly financial statements and quarterly reports, and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission will update the Emergency Board in September on the university's cash flow and progress.

The Emergency Board approved the funding with two members objecting. Representative Lucetta Elmer of McMinnville and Representative Mark Owens of Crane voted no, citing concerns about whether the plan is sustainable and whether enrollment projections support a path to solvency.

Other members supported the release while warning that the situation reflects a broader strain. Senate President Rob Wagner of Lake Oswego described the appropriation as an early warning sign for the wider system.

Senator Fred Girod of Stayton pointed to the state's low level of per-student funding, noting that Oregon ranks 46th nationally in funding per four-year student.

Senator Jeff Golden of Ashland said the university had already undertaken significant reductions and was not simply seeking a bailout.

The discussion returned repeatedly to the theme that SOU is an early example rather than an isolated case. Portland State University and Oregon State University are also managing budget shortfalls. Legislators signaled that the state will need to confront the condition of postsecondary education and workforce training more broadly in the sessions ahead.

SOU Board Adopts the Vitality Plan (June 18, 2026)

On June 18, the Southern Oregon University Board of Trustees voted unanimously to adopt the Vitality Plan. The plan seeks roughly \$20 million in budget improvements to keep the university operationally stable through fiscal year 2029.

It eliminates three academic programs, which are human service, music industry and production, and financial mathematics. It cuts more than 60 full-time positions and reorganizes departments. The university is carrying a projected deficit of about \$12.5 million for the fiscal year that ended June 30.

The outcome bears on RCC in several respects. SOU is the primary four-year transfer destination for many RCC students, and the two institutions share the Higher Education Center in downtown Medford. The scope of program eliminations and restructuring at SOU will shape the transfer pathways available to RCC students in the affected fields.

House Bill 4124 Postsecondary System Study

Work continued in June on the statewide study directed by House Bill 4124.

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission, working with a private consultant, is examining all seven of Oregon's public universities and all 17 community colleges, including RCC, to identify long-term fiscal sustainability options for the state's higher education portfolio.

A draft report is due in mid-October 2026, with a final report expected in April 2027. The June legislative discussion tied the SOU situation directly to this larger review.

III. Local Government Actions – Jackson and Josephine Counties

June is budget adoption season under Oregon Local Budget Law. Counties, cities, school districts, and special districts must adopt their fiscal year 2026-27 budgets by June 30, the day before the new fiscal year begins. The actions below reflect that cycle along with other June decisions in RCC's two-county service area.

Jackson County Library District

The Jackson County Library District board adopted a fiscal year 2026-27 budget that reduces service in response to rising costs. The budget ends Sunday service at the Medford and Ashland branches, which were the district's only locations open on Sundays, and eliminates the equivalent of 12.5 full-time positions.

Hours will shift at several branches, with most libraries opening earlier on Saturdays and most branches no longer offering later Thursday evening hours. The district's budget includes \$17.5 million in expenses against \$16.3 million in projected revenue from its taxing district. District officials said revenue is increasing but is not keeping pace with operating costs, and described the changes as an effort to build a more sustainable budget.

The library system serves residents across RCC's service area, including students who rely on its branches and resources.

Josephine County

Josephine County moved through a concentrated series of budget hearings on June 23 and 24.

The Board of Commissioners held public hearings and adopted the county's overall fiscal year 2026-27 operating budget, along with the budgets of the 4-H Extension Service District and the Law Enforcement Service District.

The county budget retains funding for ten new Sheriff's Office positions tied to the voter-approved Law Enforcement Service District, a priority the Budget Committee had endorsed.

The board also addressed a supplemental budget for the current fiscal year, reviewed a \$1 million horse racing grant agreement made available through state legislation, and discussed the upcoming renewal of the Adult Jail and Juvenile Detention Levy.

In a joint City and County update with Grants Pass officials, the agencies coordinated on downtown banner approvals, the community's Fourth of July events, and city and county owned properties.

Cities, Schools, and Other Local Actions

The City of Medford's monthly residential utility rate for single-family customers is scheduled to rise from \$76.53 to \$85.91 effective July 1, 2026, reflecting adopted rate adjustments. In Ashland, the City Council took up zoning changes intended to preserve manufactured home parks, a housing supply question relevant to affordability across the valley.

School districts in both counties completed adoption of their fiscal year 2026-27 budgets ahead of the June 30 statutory deadline. Available reporting did not identify major bond, levy, or governance actions specific to June among the area's K-12 districts.

Key Upcoming Dates

The following dates are provided for the Board's awareness. They reflect scheduled events and deadlines that follow from the actions described above:

- **July 1, 2026:** Start of the 2026-27 federal award year. Workforce Pell Grants become available, and the restructured federal student loan repayment plans and borrowing limits take effect.
- **July 1, 2026:** Start of fiscal year 2026-27 for Oregon local governments, including the budgets adopted in June.
- **Fall 2026:** Possible release of the second \$7.5 million installment of state funding to SOU, conditioned on continued financial reporting.
- **September 2026:** The Higher Education Coordinating Commission is scheduled to update the Legislative Emergency Board on SOU's cash flow and progress.
- **September 30, 2026:** Federal deadline for Congress to complete fiscal year 2027 appropriations. The status of TRIO, GEAR UP, Pell, SEOG, Federal Work-Study, and subsidized loans will be resolved through this process.
- **Mid-October 2026:** Draft report due from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission on Oregon's postsecondary system under House Bill 4124, covering all seven universities and 17 community colleges.
- **November 3, 2026:** Oregon general election, including the contested Jackson County Commissioner races.
- **April 2027:** Final House Bill 4124 report due, with structural recommendations that may affect community college funding and program priorities statewide.

2026-27 Conferences and Conventions

Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress

Date: October 21-24, 2026

Registration Deadline: Early Bird- August 14th

Fee: \$1459 Non-member

Hotel Cost: TBD

Location: Chicago, IL

Board members attending:

Overview: The ACCT Leadership Congress serves as a gathering ground for over 1,600 community college trustees and presidents, as well as leaders from philanthropic organizations, government agencies, and national non-profits. It provides a platform to exchange initiatives, successes, and concerns crucial to leading community colleges. As the largest annual gathering of its kind, it holds immense significance in advancing the community college sector.

Website: <https://www.acct.org/events/2026Congress>

OCCA Annual Conference

Date: November 4-6, 2026

Registration Deadline: TBD

Fee: TBD

Hotel Cost: TBD

Location: Sunriver Resort, Sunriver, OR

Board members attending:

Overview: The OCCA Annual Conference brings together college board members and administrators to learn more about how to be empowered and become advocates on statewide community college issues. The conference provides a structure for learning more about current issues and exploring the roles and responsibilities board members can play in providing leadership that ensures Oregon's community colleges remain vibrant institutions that provide equitable educational opportunities for all.

Website: <https://occa17.com/conference/>

OSBA Annual Convention

Date: November 12-14, 2026

Registration Deadline: TBD

Fee: TBD

Location: Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel, Portland, OR

Board members attending:

Overview: The OSBA Annual Convention is Oregon's premier continuing education program — delivering practical solutions to help school boards and their superintendents improve

student learning and achievement. Whether you are a veteran board member, a superintendent, a board support professional or a first-time attendee, you'll leave the conference with practical ideas and a renewed commitment to help your board accomplish the critical work ahead. The convention features some of the "best practices" from school boards across the state.

Website: <https://www.osba.org/annual-convention-announcement/>

ACCT 2027 Community College National Legislative Summit

Date: February 7- 10, 2027

Registration Deadline: TBD

Fee: TBD

Hotel Cost: TBD

Location: Washington, DC

Board members attending:

Overview: TBD

OSBA Bonds, Ballots, and Buildings Conference

Date: March 12, 2027

Registration Deadline: TBD

Fee: TBD

Hotel Cost: TBD

Location: Salem Convention Center

Board members attending:

Overview: This one-day event offers strategies and resources to help school districts and community colleges prepare for facility or funding requests. Learn from experts and those who have successfully passed money measures. Get tips on how to navigate cost pressures while planning facilities projects that meet the needs of your district and community. Take away strategies for communicating clearly and running an effective bond campaign.

Website: <https://www.osba.org/bonds-ballots-and-buildings-conference-announcement/>

*This document will be updated periodically as more information becomes available.