



Oregon Tech



# CREATING AFFORDABLE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PATHS (HB 2973, 2015)

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April 26, 2017

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

# AFFORDABLE BACCALAUREATE OPTIONS

Stemming from HB 2973 (2015), HECC researched new and existing models of bachelors' degrees that were designated or had significantly lower costs to students. Several were examined:

- Western Governors' University (WGU) – a fixed price per term model (\$3000) is possible due to its lack of a traditional campus infrastructure. All instruction is distance learning/online.
- “\$10,000” models – several high profile state initiatives in Texas and Florida were launched in 2012 that aimed for a much lower cost degree.
- Oregon-specific programs – PSU has the 4 Years Free model. SOU has the Accelerated Baccalaureate.

# AFFORDABLE BACCALAUREATE OPTIONS

## Texas Affordable Degrees

- Two programs: one for adults with prior learning, another for high achieving STEM students
- High levels of subsidy from state and philanthropy
- Serve small student cohorts in a few majors at rural state campuses
- These two programs, while affordable, produce less than 1 percent of Texas' baccalaureates.

## Florida's "10K" challenge for state colleges (not universities)

- \$5M in startup funds from the state for STEM degrees
- Serve a small cohort of students, have produced very few graduates so far out of a state total annual enrollment of over 800,000 per year in the Florida College System.

# AFFORDABLE BACCALAUREATE OPTIONS

PSU Four Years Free (4YF): a “last dollar” model that leverages Pell Grants, Opportunity Grants and other aid. If the student maintains academic progress, can graduate in four years virtually tuition free. **High HS GPA required, first time freshmen only.**

SOU Accelerated Baccalaureate: a three year program that cuts tuition and fees by about  $\frac{1}{4}$  (\$8,000). **High HS GPA and high GPA required to maintain eligibility.**

PSU and OIT offer completion grants and awards to assist students who are close to degree but have stopped for financial reasons. Example: PSU’s “Last Mile.”