

Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education

Meeting Summary – Ontario Field Trips May 11, 2022

Community Leaders Roundtable

Treasure Valley Community College
Building #4 (Weese Building), Room 110
650 College Blvd, Ontario, OR 97914

Members Present: Sen. Dembrow, Sen. Findley, Sen. Frederick (ex officio), Rep. Owens, Rep. Ruiz

Members Excused: Sen. Robinson, Sen. Wagner, Rep. Alonso Leon, Rep. Zika

Non-Member legislators present: None

The task force convened at 8:15 AM at Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC) to meet with local education stakeholders. The meeting included invited members of the TVCC governing board, TVCC faculty and staff, superintendents of local school districts, Urban League of Portland, Malheur County Poverty to Prosperity Initiative, Malheur Education Service District, local community college presidents, and Associated Student Government. The discussion addressed issues concerning infrastructure, college affordability, dual credits, non-transferable college credits, licensure reciprocity, instructor turnover and retention, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and coordination between regulatory entities, statewide oversight of higher education, need for school counselors, career technical education (CTE), bridge between high school and college, student hunger, student housing, teacher workload and pay, stable and adequate funding, and education reform.

Faculty and Staff Roundtable

Treasure Valley Community College
Building #4 (Weese Building), Room 110
650 College Blvd, Ontario, OR 97914

Members Present: Sen. Dembrow, Sen. Findley, Sen. Frederick (ex officio), Rep. Owens, Rep. Ruiz

Members Excused: Sen. Robinson, Sen. Wagner, Rep. Alonso Leon, Rep. Zika

Non-member legislators present: None.

The task force convened at 10:00 AM at Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC) to meet with TVCC staff and faculty. The discussion addressed issues concerning student housing and transportation, financial aid eligibility and requirements, non-transferable college credits, teacher workload and pay,

faculty and staff recruitment, educating parents about the value of higher education, increased student support services, Wi-Fi infrastructure, stable and adequate funding, bonding capacity, dual credits and partnering with high schools, professional development, and CTE.

Student Listening Session

**Treasure Valley Community College
Building #4 (Weese Building), Room 110
650 College Blvd, Ontario, OR 97914**

Members Present: Sen. Dembrow, Sen. Findley, Sen. Frederick, Rep. Owens, Rep. Ruiz

Members Excused: Sen. Robinson, Sen. Wagner, Rep. Alonso Leon, Rep. Zika

Other legislators present: None

Approximately 20 students and alumni attended the listening session at Treasure Valley Community College. Senator Dembrow, acting Chair, welcomed the students and task force members and explained the meeting's purpose and structure. Task force members sat in groups of one or two at tables with groups of four or five students. The students described their educational experiences and responded to questions from the task force members. After 30 to 40 minutes at each table, task force members moved to new tables to talk with different groups of students.

Site Tour

Treasure Valley Community College

Members Present: Sen. Dembrow, Sen. Findley, Sen. Frederick, Rep. Owens

Members Excused: Sen. Robinson, Sen. Wagner, Rep. Alonso Leon, Rep. Ruiz, Rep. Zika

Other legislators present: None

Treasure Valley Community College's Recruiting Coordinator, Chase Van Weerdhuizen, led task force members, College president Dr. Dana Young, and Abby Lee, Associate Vice President of College and Public Relations, on a campus tour. The tour began and ended in the Weese building where the library and multicultural center are, and where peer mentoring occurs. In the Oregon Trail building, the group toured classrooms and spaces where high school equivalency and English for Speakers of Other Languages classes are held. The next stops were in the Florence Findley Career and Technical Education Center; Barbara Hall, where math, computer, English departments are located; and the Student Center, with financial aid, admissions, and disability services offices.