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

PREPARED FOR: House Committee on Higher Education

DATE: January 17, 2023

BY: Matt Perreault, LPRO Analyst

RE: Task Force Overview and Final Recommendations

# Background

# House Bill 2590 (2021)

Directs task force to visit public post-secondary institutions of education to meet with prospective, current, and former students from underrepresented populations, including:

- “Underrepresented” as defined in ORS 342.120
- “Diverse” as defined in ORS 342.433
- Are from rural communities in Oregon
- Are from low-income families
- Experience disability
- Identify as LGBTQ2IA+
- Are undocumented
- Have been in foster care



# House Bill 2590 (2021)

Directs task force to develop policy and funding proposals for the 2023 legislative session to address student success in the following areas:

- Access
- Retention
- Graduation
- Entry into the workforce



# House Bill 2590 (2021)

Additional powers and directives:

- Form advisory subcommittees
- Presession file legislation for 2023 regular session
- Submit report to legislature by December 15, 2022



# Process

# Process Overview

- Planning Meetings
- Site Visits
- Virtual Meetings
- Work Groups
- Final Report



# Site Visits

## Portland Metro Area (March 30-31)

- Portland State University
- Mt. Hood Community College

## Willamette Valley (April 25-26)

- Lane Community College
- University of Oregon
- Western Oregon University

## Eastern Oregon (May 10-11)

- Eastern Oregon University
- Treasure Valley Community College

## Central Oregon (virtual, May 31)

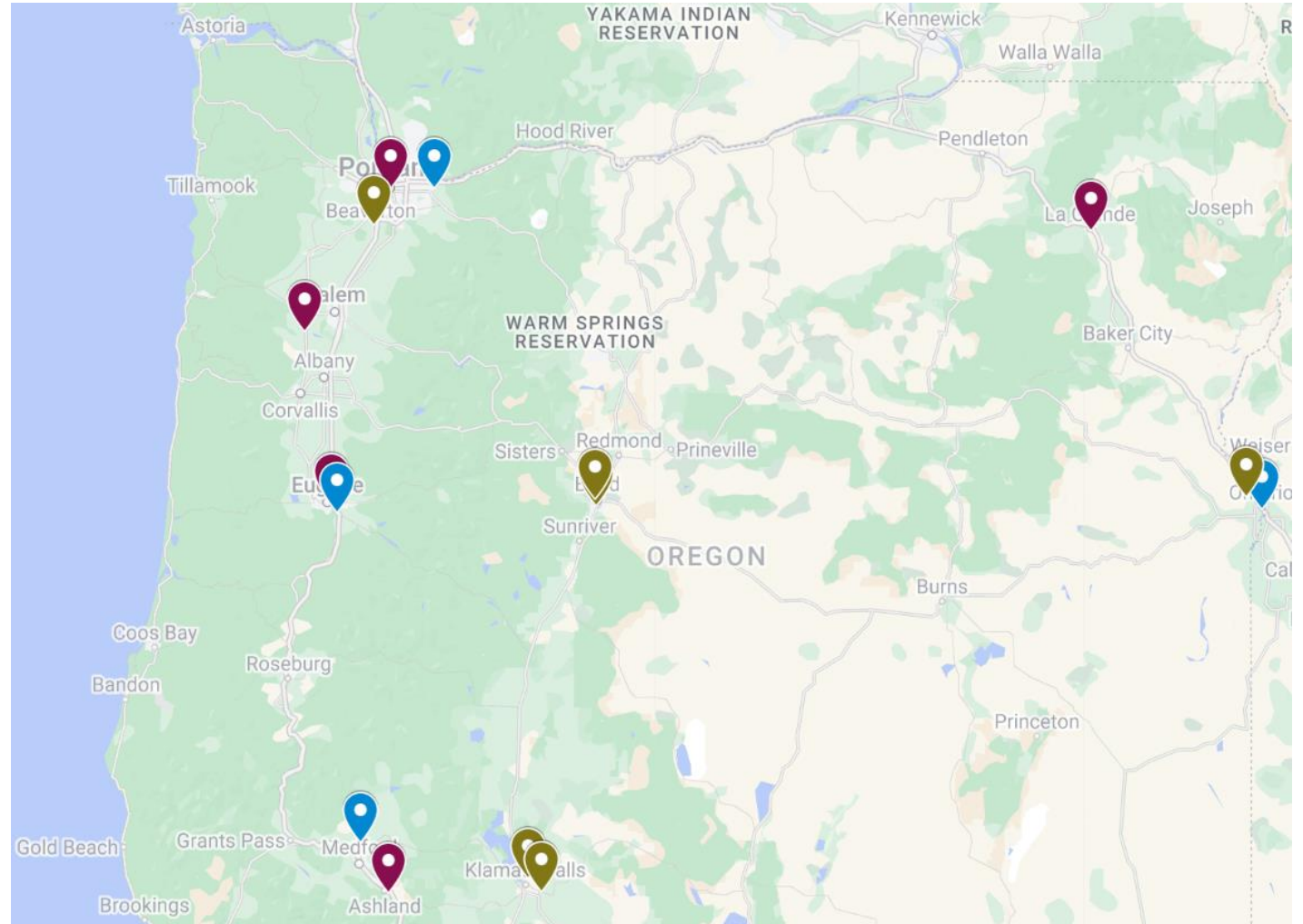
- Oregon Institute of Technology
- Oregon State University-Cascades
- Central Oregon Community College
- Klamath Community College

## Southern Oregon (July 20-21)

- Southern Oregon University
- Rogue Community College

## Correctional Facilities (virtual, July 14)

- Snake River Correctional Institution
- Coffee Creek Correctional Facility





# Sample Site Visit Agenda

**8:00 AM-9:45 AM**

Roundtable discussion with institutional and community leaders

**10:00 AM-11:45 AM**

Roundtable discussion with faculty and staff

**1:30 PM-3:30 PM**

Student listening session

**4:00 PM-5:00 PM**

Campus site tours

**5:30 PM**

Public comment period



# Virtual Meeting Topics

- Oregon Equity Lens and equity gaps in postsecondary education
- Educational attainment and workforce needs in Oregon
- Oregon's high school graduation, college-going, and drop-out rates
- Impact of student debt and the cost of higher education
- State financial aid programs
- Equitable policymaking frameworks
- Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs)
- Experiences of incarcerated students



# Work Groups

## **Work Group 1: Financial Aid and Affordability**

- Met on September 8, September 20, October 18, and November 1
- 27 policy proposals submitted

## **Work Group 2: Student Support and Wraparound Services**

- Met on September 9, September 20, October 5, October 20, and November 3
- 10 policy proposals submitted

## **Work Group 3: Systemic Accountability and Continuous Improvement**

- Met on September 7, September 20, October 7, October 31, and November 4
- 17 policy proposals submitted



# Findings and Recommendations



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# Recommendations from Work Group 1: Financial Aid and Affordability

1. Expand opportunities for need-based financial aid and revise financial aid programs to accommodate working adults.
2. Provide consistent funding for emergency financial aid and completion grants.
3. Expand access to open educational resources, with particular focus paid to alignment with ongoing common course numbering and transfer pathway work.
4. Convene a statewide work group on student housing affordability.
5. Review the state child care grant and campus-based child care centers to meet the needs of the greatest number of student parents.
6. Invest in funding for pre-college mentorship and advising activities and explore the possibility of guaranteed admissions.
7. Continue to invest in the benefits navigator program.
8. Monitor utilization of work-study programs.



# Recommendations from Work Group 2: Student Support and Wraparound Services

1. Allow institutions flexibility in adapting to the needs of an increasingly diverse student body and encourage institutions to develop identification strategies for students at risk of noncompletion.
2. Encourage centralized and coordination of information about programs and services available to students.
3. Continue to invest in benefits navigator positions and consider future expansions of the program.
4. Invest in and expand access to services and programs associated with positive student outcomes.
5. Ensure affordable access to mental health and counseling services for all students.
6. Convene a work group to investigate and address the needs of students with disabilities.
7. Complete the transition to corequisite delivery of developmental education at every institution.



# Recommendations from Work Group 3: Systemic Accountability and Continuous Improvement

1. Focus on increasing clear communication of underrepresented student outcomes and increase accountability at the local level along with increased investments.
2. Encourage institutions to adopt hiring, training, and cultural competency practices that improve their ability to address the needs of underrepresented students.
3. Renew the focus on hiring diverse educators and staff and provide compensation for additional unpaid labor.
4. Convene a statewide advisory committee focused on equity in practice and collaborative accountability.
5. Study the impact of the use of adjunct faculty, including pay parity.
6. All public institutions should have a leadership-level officer focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.
7. Institutions should involve broader representation of campus communities when making resource allocation decisions.



# Next Steps



# Measures Introduced

Measure	LC Number	Relating to
HB 2262	LC 1998	Relating to education funding.
SB 264	LC 1999	Relating to education funding.
SB 265	LC 2002	Relating to higher education funding.
HB 2263	LC 2004	Relating to higher education.
SB 266	LC 2005	Relating to higher education.
SB 262	LC 2006	Relating to higher education.
HB 2264	LC 2007	Relating to education.
HB 2265	LC 2009	Relating to education.
SB 263	LC 2010	Relating to education.



# Resources

JTUSHE on OLIS: [Link](#)

Public-facing website: [Link](#)

Access to full report: [Link](#)





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