



# INTRODUCTION TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN OREGON

Ben Cannon, Executive Director

January 2023

# A Vision for Oregon Postsecondary Education

*“The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) envisions a future in which **all Oregonians** -- and especially those whom our systems have underserved and marginalized – **benefit from the transformational power of high-quality postsecondary education and training.**”*

From the HECC Strategic Framework, December 2017

## HECC Goals

### AFFORDABILITY



### EQUITY



### STUDENT SUCCESS



### ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY IMPACT



# Oregon's Future Calls for More Education and Training After High School

**97%**

of all Oregon jobs with above-average earnings will call for a postsecondary credential or degree, 2019-2029.

Source: \*Oregon Employment Department. (2020). [Oregon Occupational Employment Projections 2019-21 and Occupational Employment Projections 2019-29](#)

**Typical Oregon adults need to earn above-average annual wages to make ends meet.**

Average annual earnings in

Oregon: \$55,349\*

Living wage required to meet expenses in Oregon for single adult with two kids:

\$84,414\*\*

\*Source: Payton, Jason. 2020. "2020 Oregon Wage Data," Oregon Employment Department, <https://www.qualityinfo.org/-/2020-oregon-wage-data?inheritRedirect=true>

\*\*Source: Glasmeier, Amy K. Living Wage Calculator. 2020. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. [livingwage.mit.edu](http://livingwage.mit.edu).

**Among occupations with above-average earnings, occupations with higher levels of education are projected to grow faster.**

Projected Job Growth in Occupations with Above Average Earnings by Preferred Education Level

2019-2029	Growth rate	Openings
Doctoral or prof. degree	10.1%	44,594
Master's degree	13.5%	132,409
Bachelor's degree	11.3%	331,638
Associate degree or postsecondary training	7.8%	220,845
High school or equivalent	6.1%	16,048

Source: Oregon Employment Department (2020). 2019-2029 Projected Job Growth by Typical Entry-Level Education. <https://www.qualityinfo.org/projections#13>  
Oregon Employment Department (2020) *Statewide 2020 Oregon Wage Information*. <https://www.qualityinfo.org/>



# Oregon's 40-40-20 Goal for Young Adults



By 2025, 40 percent of young adult Oregonians will complete a four-year degree or more, 40 percent will complete a two-year degree or short-term career certificate, and the remaining 20 percent will earn a high school diploma or equivalent. ORS 350.014

**40%**

4-year degree or more

**40%**

2-year degree or short-term career certificate

**20%**

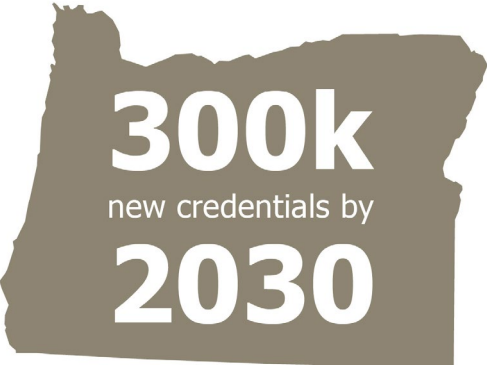
High school diploma or equivalent



# Oregon's Adult Educational Attainment Goal

Between 2020 and 2030, 300,000 adult Oregonians will earn a new degree, certificate, or other credential of value.

Oregon will reduce the adult educational attainment gaps by half for underserved people of color, low-income learners, and rural learners during this decade.

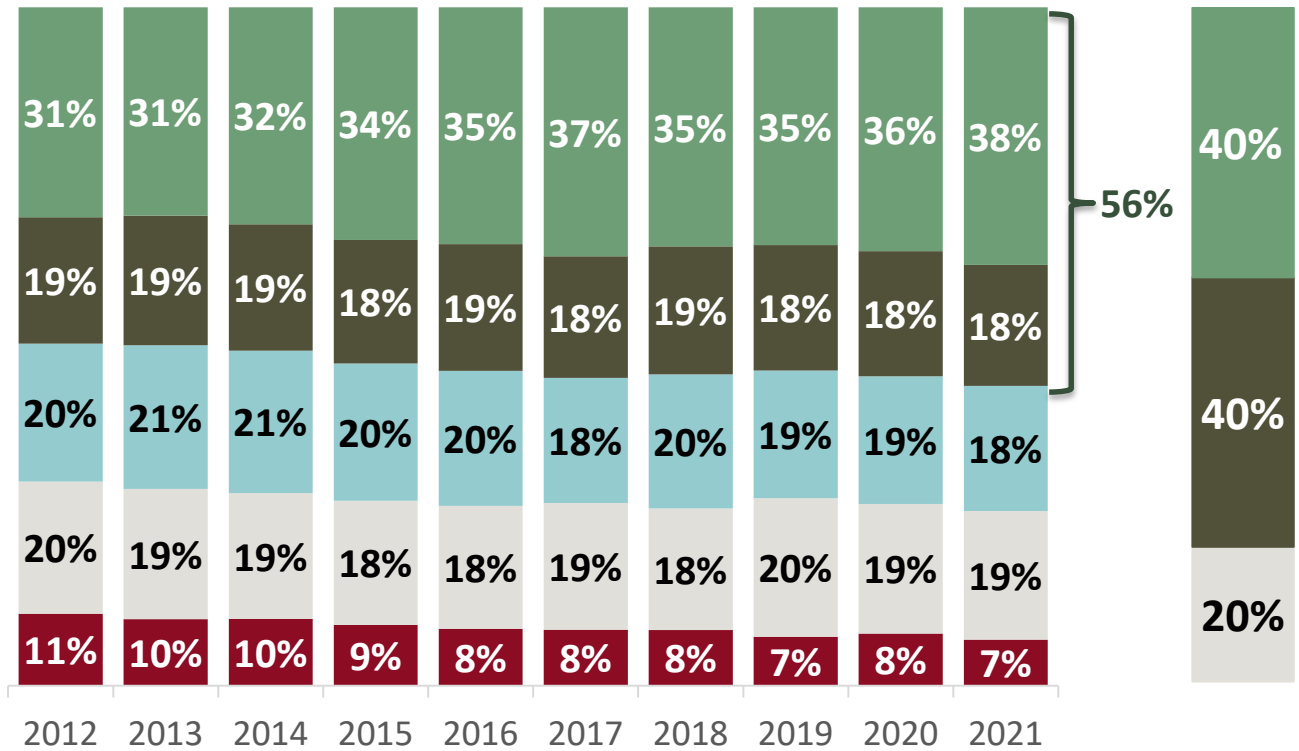


# Progress toward Oregon's state educational attainment goals

PROGRESS TOWARD 40-40-20: KPM #4: Percent of all young adults by levels of education and training

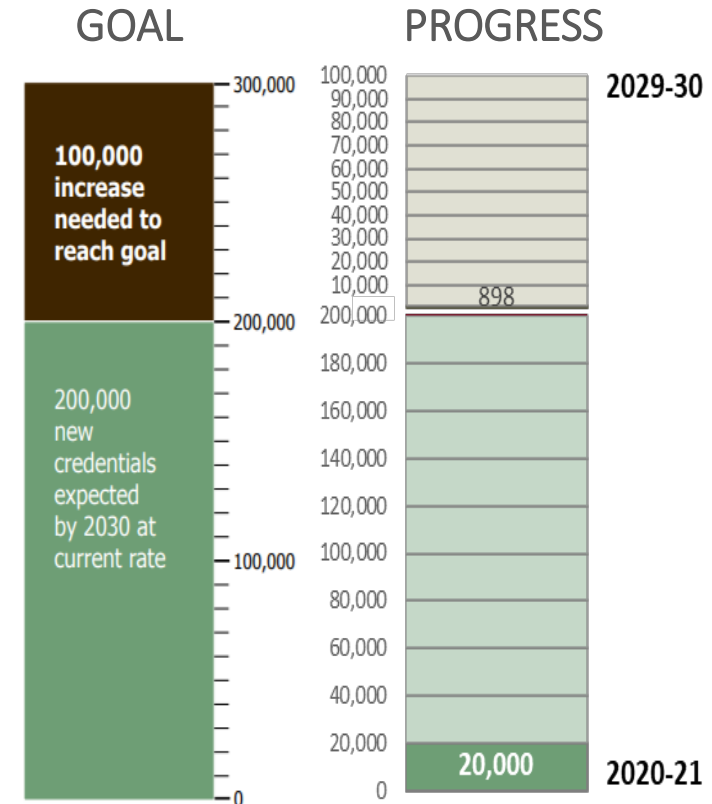
The share of young Oregonians with a postsecondary credential has risen slightly in the last few years but remains well below the 80% goal.

Rates come from survey data, which can have slight fluctuations from year to year.



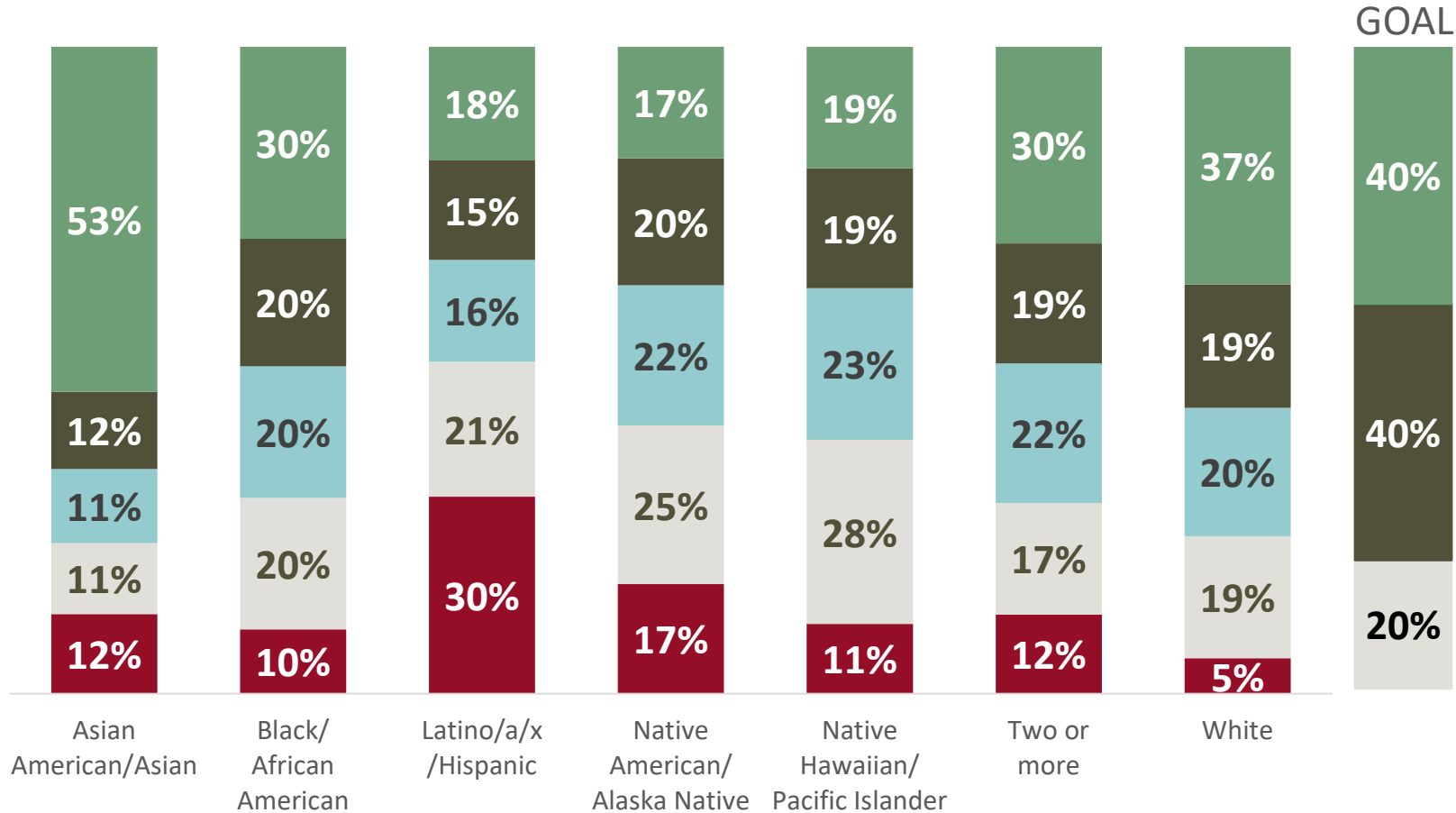
- Bachelor's or advanced degree
- Associate degree or certificate (est.)
- Some college, no degree
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Less than high school diploma

## ADULT ATTAINMENT



# Educational attainment varies widely by race/ethnicity, 2021

Percent of adults of all ages at levels of education and training, by race/ethnicity, 2021.



The adult attainment goal also calls for gaps in educational attainment by race/ethnicity, income, and rural/urban to be cut in half by 2030.

Educational gaps by income level have narrowed slightly, while other gaps have not narrowed.

- Bachelor's or advanced degree
- Associate degree or certificate (est.)
- Some college, no degree
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Less than high school diploma

Source: For both goals, data from US Census Bureau American Community Survey, Table #B15001, 1-year estimates. Includes current Oregon residents who completed their education and training in other states, before becoming an Oregon resident. Estimates of certificate attainment derived with estimates from Ewert and Kominski (2014), <https://www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/p70-138.pdf>.

# Why postsecondary education?



Educational Attainment	Median Oregon Annual Earnings
Graduate degree	\$79,000
Bachelor's degree	\$57,000
Associate degree	\$41,000
Some college, no degree	\$38,000
High school diploma	\$36,000

Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers in 2021 with HECC calculated estimates for those with Some College/No Degree.  
Source: US Census, 2021: Table B20004: <https://data.census.gov/table?q=oregon+educational+attainment&t=Income+and+Poverty&y=2021&tid=ACSDT1Y2021.B20004>: rounded  
US Census, 2021: Table B15002AI: <https://data.census.gov/table?q=oregon+educational+attainment&t=Race+and+Ethnicity&y=2021&tid=ACSDT1Y2021.B15002B>

# But Those Benefits are Inequitably Distributed

Percentage of individuals within a demographic group with each credential

Educational attainment	Median Oregon annual earnings	White	Underrepresented Populations (Black, Hispanic, Native American, and Native Hawaiian combined)
Graduate degree	\$79,000	14%	8%
Bachelor's degree	\$57,000	24%	14%
Associate degree	\$41,000	9%	7%
Some college, no degree	\$38,000	25%	23%
High school diploma	\$36,000	22%	23%
Less than a high school diploma	\$31,000	5%	25%

*Note: Brackets in the original image group the top three rows (Graduate, Bachelor's, Associate degrees) for both White (14%+24%+9%=47%) and Underrepresented (8%+14%+7%=29%) populations.*

Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers in Oregon, 2021 with HECC calculated estimates for those with Some College/No Degree.  
 Source: US Census, 2021: Table B20004: <https://data.census.gov/table?q=oregon+educational+attainment&t=Income+and+Poverty&y=2021&tid=ACSDT1Y2021.B20004>: rounded  
 US Census, 2021: Table B15002A-I: <https://data.census.gov/table?q=oregon+educational+attainment&t=Race+and+Ethnicity&y=2021&tid=ACSDT1Y2021.B15002B>



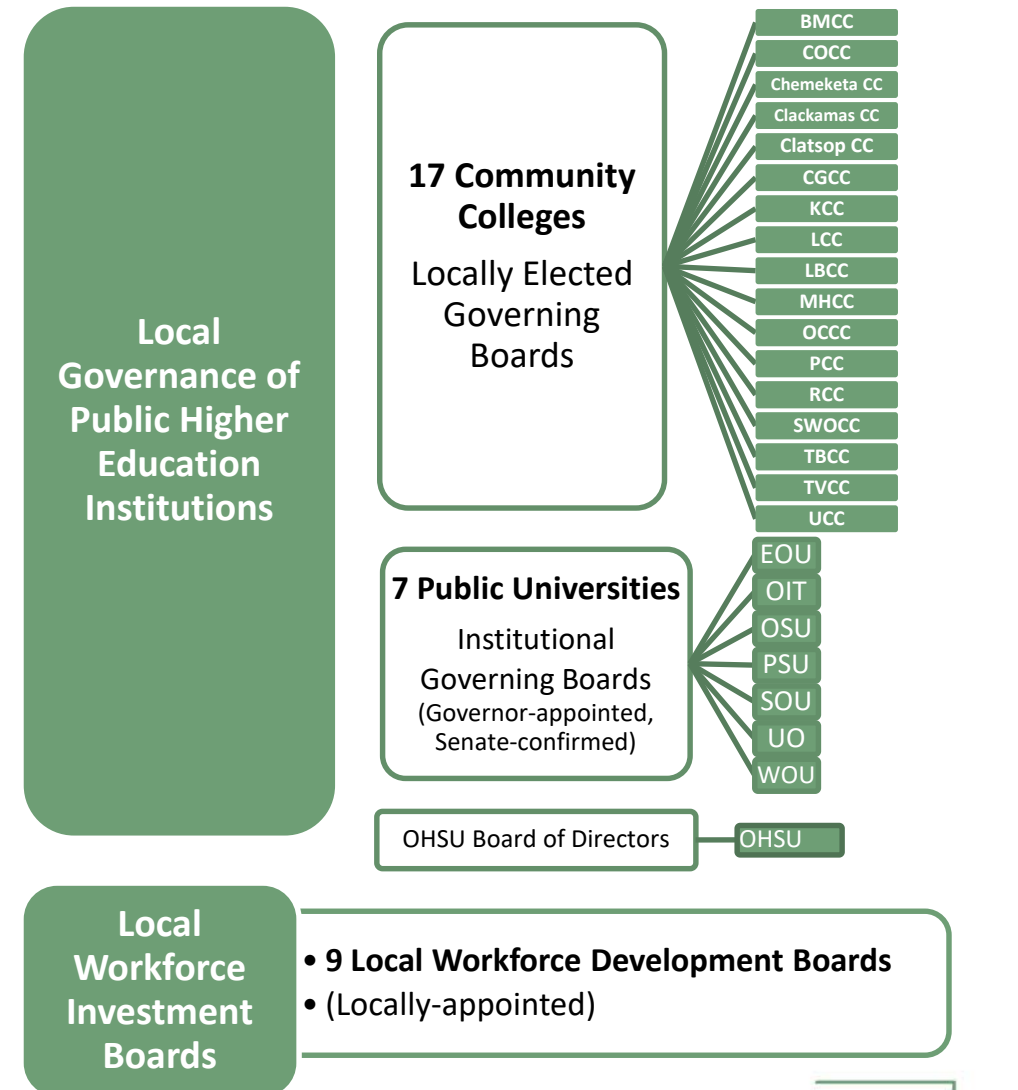
# State Postsecondary Education Structure and HECC's Coordinating Role

## HECC

- Statewide coordination of postsecondary education policy and funding:
  - Responsibility across all sectors of higher education and workforce, public and private
  - A clearly-defined focus on coordination, not governance
  - The agency's work is guided by the HECC's 15-member Commission (*Governor-appointed, Senate-confirmed*).
  - The Agency is organized in 8 offices.
  - In addition to the HECC Commission, the HECC Office of Workforce Development is guided by the following state boards:
    - OregonServes
    - STEM Investment Council
    - Workforce and Talent Development Board
    - Oregon Youth Corps

## State of Oregon Partners

- Oregon Governor
- Oregon Legislature
- State Agencies and Boards/Commissions
  - Early Learning Council
  - Youth Development Council
  - Oregon Department of Education, Oregon State Board of Education
  - Teachers' Standards and Practices Commission
  - Employment Department



# Four Strategic Action Areas Guide

## HECC's Work to Achieve Four Key Goals

Our strategic work is in four priority areas. Through these strategic priorities, we aim to achieve our goals of **affordability, equity, student success, and economic and community impact.**

### REPORTING to steer progress:

- We use data analysis and reporting to steer progress toward state attainment and equity goals.

### Streamlining Learner PATHWAYS:

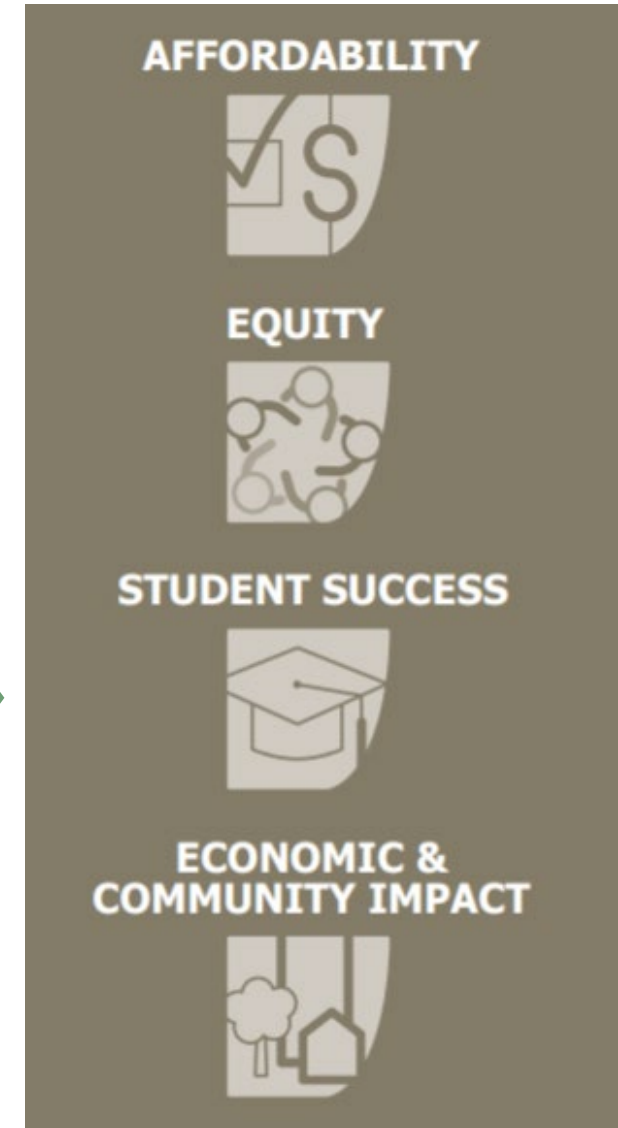
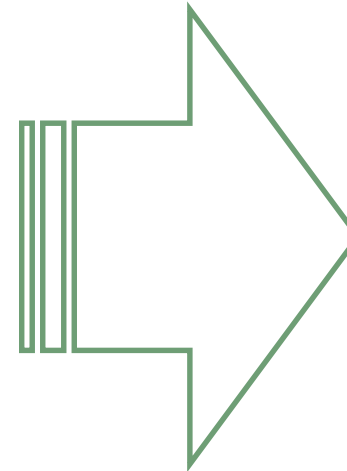
- We make it easier to navigate and succeed in education and training and link graduates with careers.

### FUNDING for success:

- We develop funding strategies to prioritize student success.

### Expanding Opportunity through OUTREACH:

- We work to ensure equitable access to college and career resources.



From the *HECC Strategic Framework*, December 2017

# Major Areas of HECC Responsibility

## Setting a strategic vision

- Strategic planning to achieve state goals, and advising state leaders
- Postsecondary budgetary recommendations
- Support for five leadership/advisory boards

## Administering state funding

- Within statutory parameters, determining how to allocate \$1.4B/year in postsecondary education funding to community colleges, public universities, and students

## Authorizing postsecondary programs and degrees

- Approval of new academic degree programs
- Authorization of private degree-granting colleges and universities
- Licensing of private career schools

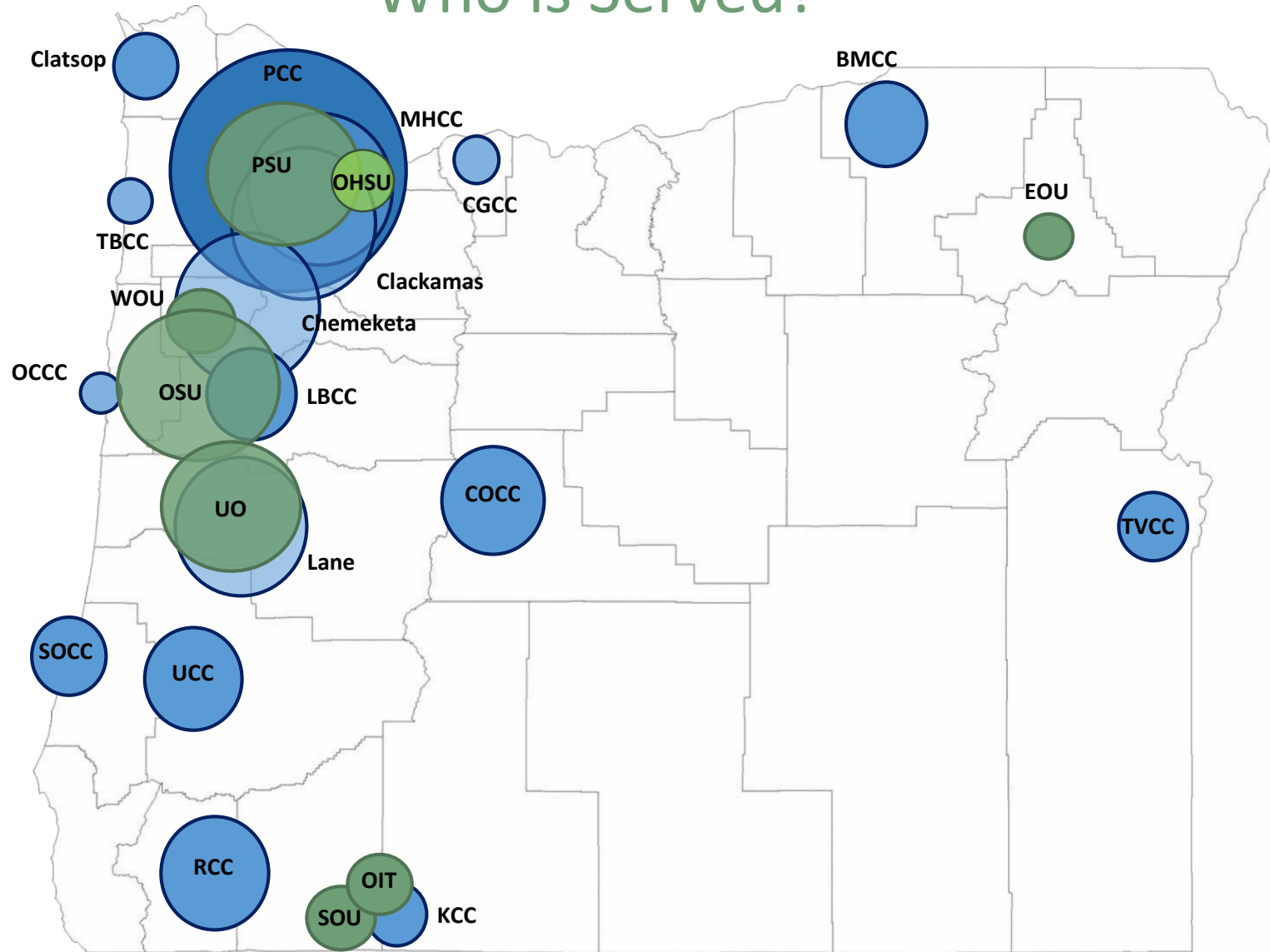
## Administering financial aid, workforce, and other programs

- State financial aid and outreach programs (OOG, Oregon Promise, Oregon Tribal Student Grant, ASPIRE, etc.)
- With partners, workforce programs/strategies supported by federal Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Support for Adult Basic Skills, GED, OYC, and more

## Evaluating and reporting

- Statewide data collection, analysis, research, and reporting
- Legislative reports and research as directed

# Who is Served?



## TOTAL ENROLLMENT 2021-22

Academic Year Headcount

### Public Institutions

Universities	118,422
Community Colleges	184,914
Oregon Health & Science University	2,984

### Private Institutions

Private Degree-Granting Postsecondary Institutions	13,757
Private Career Schools	22,013

### Workforce Investment Services

Career Services	15,859
Training Services	6,050
OR Youth Conservation Corps*	355
OregonServes - Students supported by K-12 and Postsecondary Programs	2,700

Note: Total headcount may contain duplicates for students who attended multiple institutions during the same academic year.

Source: HECC analysis of student-level data from public universities, community colleges and private degree granting and career schools. All data are for the 2021-22 academic year with the exception of OHSU which is for Fall term only.

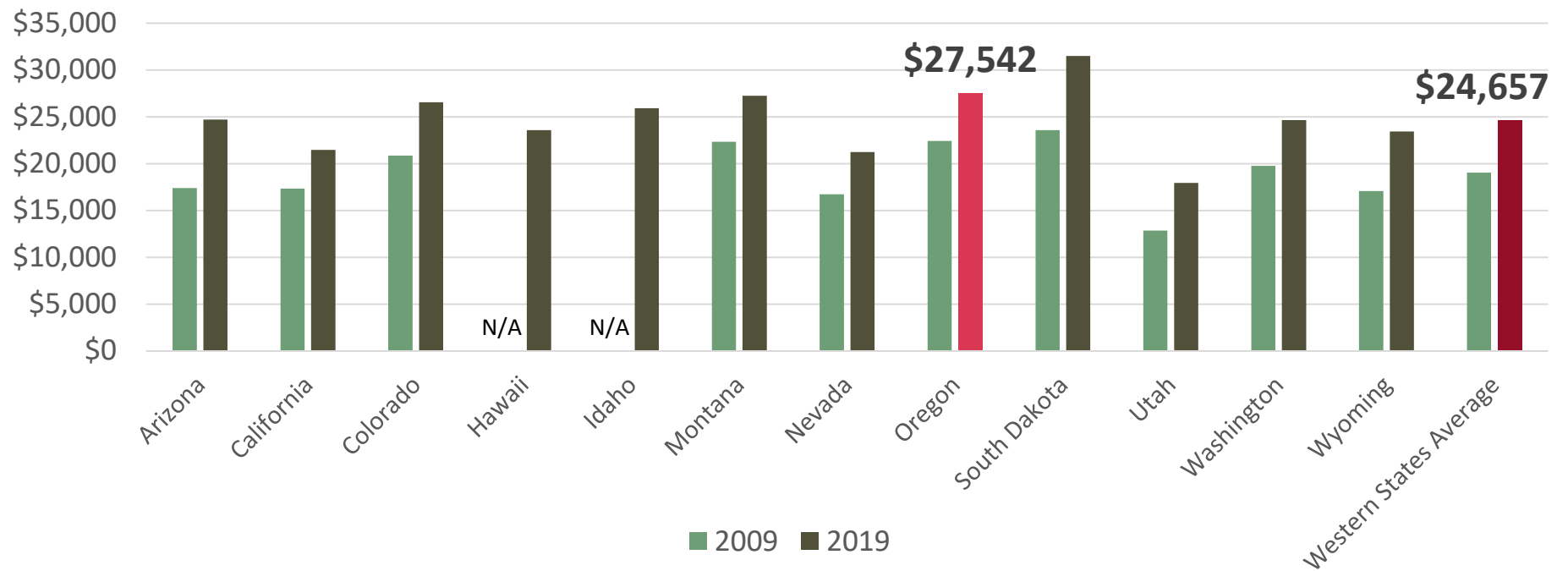
\* Data from 2019-20



# Oregon Student Loan Debt Burden has Increased, and is Higher than Average among Western States for Bachelor's Degree Recipients (Public and Private combined)

Oregon students graduate from 4-year institutions with more debt, on average, than their neighbors in other Western states, and this debt load has increased in the last decade.

Average Loan Amount for Bachelor's Degree Recipients from Public & Private Institutions, 2009 vs. 2019, Western (WICHE) States

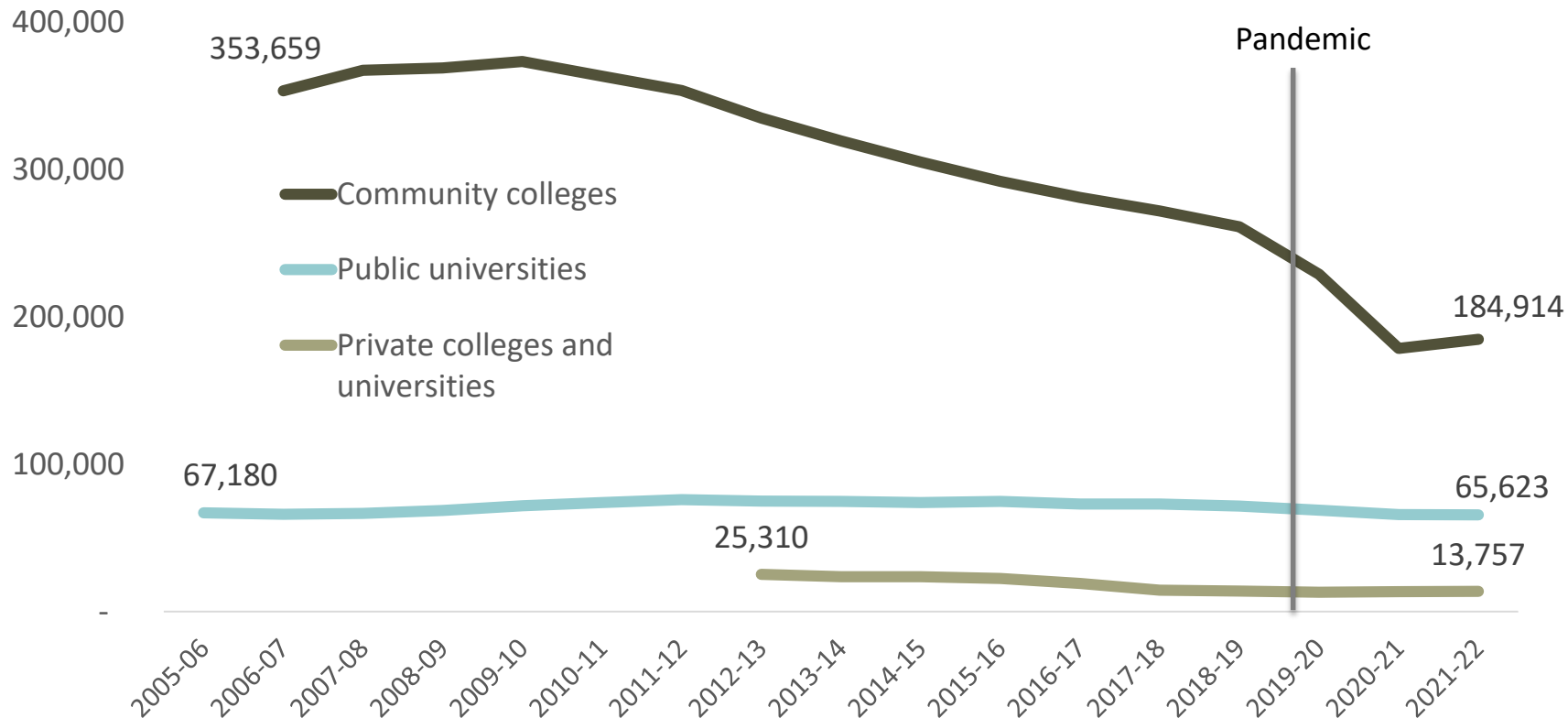


Adapted from The Institute for College Access and Success, "Project on Student Debt" [https://ticas.org/sites/default/files/pub\\_files/classof2009.pdf](https://ticas.org/sites/default/files/pub_files/classof2009.pdf) and [https://ticas.org/sites/default/files/pub\\_files/classof2019.pdf](https://ticas.org/sites/default/files/pub_files/classof2019.pdf). Percentage of Graduates with Debt and Average Debt of those with Loans, by State. Note - For Hawaii and Idaho in 2009 no average calculation was done because the number of usable cases with student debt data covered less than 30% of bachelor's degree recipients in the Class of 2009 or the underlying data for that state showed a change of 30% or more in average debt from the previous year.



# Pandemic-related enrollment declines have stabilized but not returned to pre-pandemic levels

Annual number of undergraduates by institution type, 2005-06 to 2021-22

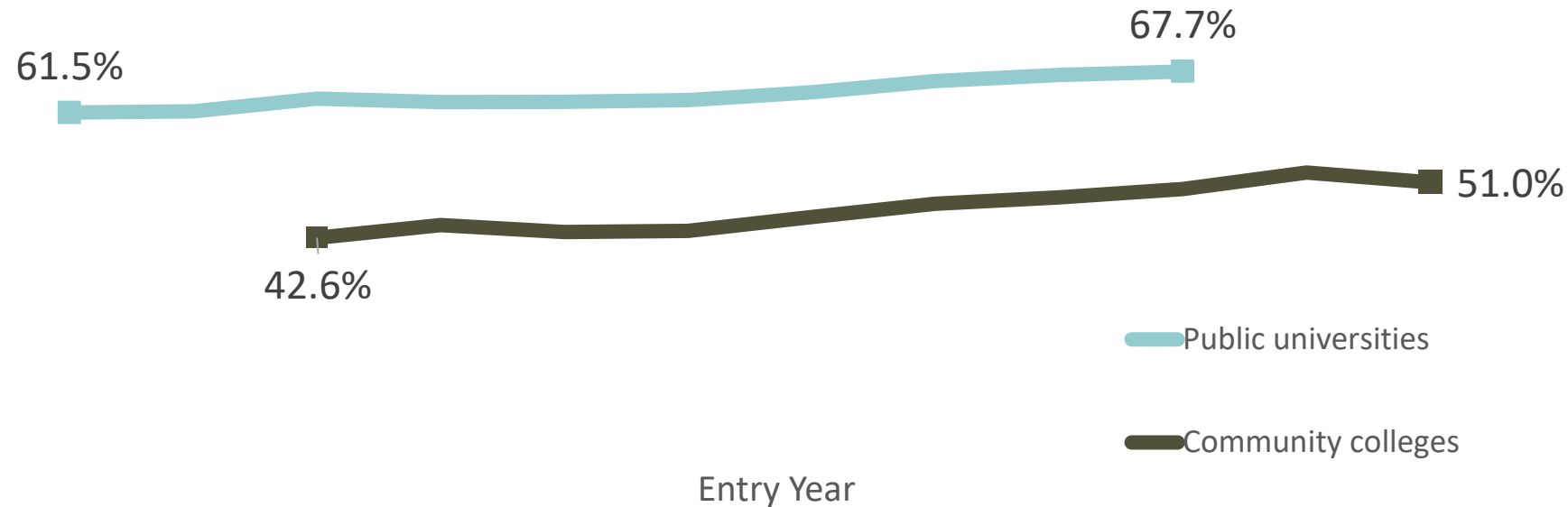


Community college enrollment is closely aligned with economic trends, and low unemployment, combined with the pandemic, has led to declining enrollment since 2010.

14 Source: For public universities and community colleges: HECC analysis of student data from all institutions. Includes annual headcount for resident, undergraduate and non-admitted undergraduate students. For independent schools: HECC analysis of student data only from private institutions that are authorized by the HECC and that reported data. Includes annual headcount for resident and nonresident undergraduate students and therefore overestimates the number of undergraduates at private, degree-granting institutions authorized by the HECC, as some of the graduate students cannot be identified separately.

# Completion and transfer rates in Oregon public institutions

Completion rates by institution type, 2005-06 to 2021-22



Graduation rates in both sectors have risen over the last several years. However, wide gaps remain by race/ethnicity, rural/urban background, and income background.

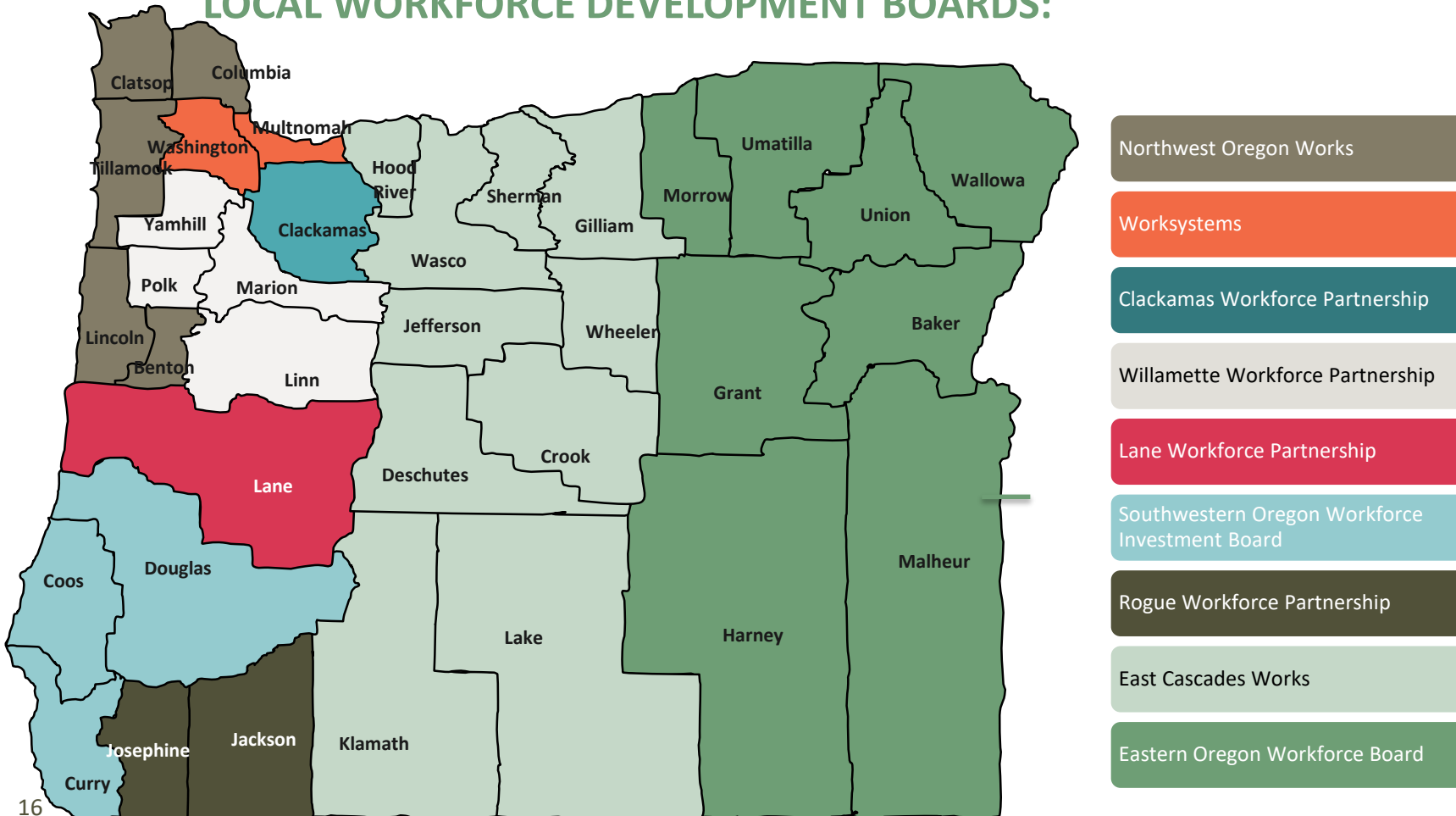
2006-07 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 2012-13 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17 2017-18

Source: For public universities and community colleges: HECC analysis of student data from all institutions. For community colleges data shows completion or transfer to a four-year university within four years for credential-seeking students who were not accelerated learning students. For public universities, data shows completion of bachelor's degrees within six years among first-time, full-time freshmen.

# How are Oregon Learners and Workers Served by Workforce Investments?

Through the HECC Office of Workforce Investments, HECC partners with many other agencies, organizations, and programs to provide needed services to Oregonians. HECC staffs the Oregon Workforce and Talent Development Board (WTDB).

## LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS:



## WORKFORCE SERVICES

By working with WorkSource Oregon, through a partnership with local Workforce Development Boards, Oregonians received **nearly 60,000 federally-funded WIOA career and training services in 2019-20.**

The Oregon Youth Corps provides funding to agencies specifically aimed at serving youth with employment opportunities.

### Workforce Services

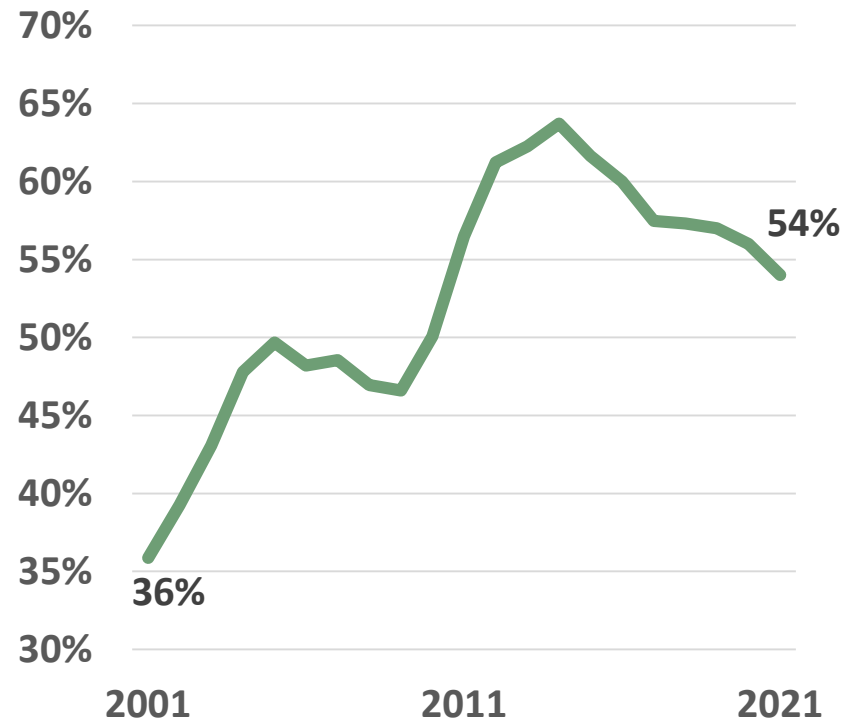
Career Services	54,199
Training Services	5,165
OR Youth Corps	355



# The Bigger Picture: With Limited State Funding, Students and Families have Taken on Higher Proportion of Costs. State Investment Supports Student Success.

- Public funding 38<sup>th</sup> in nation
- 21% below national average
- 6% reduction in per FTE funding since 2001 (adjusted for inflation)

### Tuition as Share of Total Education Revenue



Note: Total revenue includes tuition, fees, and public appropriations. Education and General Funds.

Source: State Higher Education Finance Report 2021, Table 3.2

For every extra \$1,000 per student a state spends on its public, four-year colleges...

- A student's odds of earning a bachelor's degree by age 25 increases by 1.5%
- The likelihood a student will take on debt decreases by 2%
- The total amount a student borrows decreases by over \$5,000 by age 35

Source: State Investment in Higher Education: Effects on Human Capital Formation, Student Debt, and Long-Term Financial Outcomes of Students, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, September 2020.

# Reaching Us

**Ben Cannon**

Executive Director

[Ben.Cannon@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:Ben.Cannon@hecc.oregon.gov)

503-689-6548(c)

**Kyle Thomas**

Director, Legislative and Policy Affairs

[Kyle.Thomas@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:Kyle.Thomas@hecc.oregon.gov)

503-480-9596(c)