



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Office of the Executive Director

3225 25th Street SE

Salem, Oregon 97302

www.oregon.gov/HigherEd

April 8, 2025

Co-Chair, Senator Janeen Sollman
Co-Chair, Representative Ricki Ruiz
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Education

Dear Co-Chairs Sollman and Ruiz,

Thank you for the opportunity to answer questions that arose during the **April 7, 2025** Higher Education Coordinating Commission presentation to the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education.

On slide 238, Sen. Sollman asked whether the pie chart featured on this slide indicates that 2% of Black/African-American students enroll in Oregon's public universities. That is not the case. To clarify, 2% of all enrolled public university students who are from Oregon identify as Black/African-American. At the community colleges, 3% of all Oregon students identify as Black/African American. This is on par with Oregon's population as a whole: 2% of Oregonians identify as Black or African-American, according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

On slides 232 and 244, Rep. Ruiz asked about tuition and fee levels impacted by state appropriations. The slides note that Oregon's average two-year tuition and fee rates were 2nd highest among the Western states, while Oregon's average four-year tuition and fee rates were highest among the western states. Rep. Ruiz asked how much additional state funding would be needed to bring Oregon in-line with the average. We estimate that amount to be an increase of just over \$830M in GF for the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) and the Community College Support Fund (CCSF), which is approximately 47% above current biennial funding.

It is important to note several key assumptions in this estimate. First, the western state tuition average is 62% less than the Oregon average for the two-year sector and 20% less for the four-year sector. Therefore, the calculations assume an effort to lower the average Oregon tuition and fee rate by the same percentage for all students. Further, we assume that any decline in tuition and fee revenue will be made up from state revenue with all other factors unchanged. Finally, the western state tuition and fee rates cited in our presentation represent resident, undergraduate student rates, and HECC does not have the ability to isolate financial data for only those students, so our calculation accounts for both resident and non-resident undergraduates. We include a more detailed breakdown of our estimate in Appendix A.

Correction

On slide 220, we stated in our spoken testimony that as of June 30, 2024, Future Ready Oregon has provided 4,500 services to Oregonians. In fact, we have provided over 45,000 services to Oregonians through Future Ready Oregon, as noted on the slide.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kyle Thomas, Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs, at kyle.thomas@hecc.oregon.gov or at 503-480-9596.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Cannon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ben Cannon

Executive Director

Appendix A: Detailed Breakdown of Estimated State Investment to Align Oregon’s Tuition and Fees with Western States

FY 2024 Financial Data and HECC Calculations

	Community Colleges	Public Universities
FY 2024 State Aid/Appropriations	\$391,300,620	\$494,721,711
FY 2024 Net Revenue from Tuition and Fees	\$262,459,627	\$1,269,577,976
FY 2024 Total Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students	69,223	82,718
FY 2024 Net Tuition and Fee Revenue per FTE	\$3,792	\$15,348
Percent Reduction in Tuition/Fees Needed to Match Western States	-62%	-20%
Adjusted Net Tuition and Fee Revenue per FTE	\$1,441 (-62% from FY 2024)	\$12,279 (-20% from FY 2024)
Adjusted Net Tuition and Fee Revenue - Total	\$99,734,658 (-62% from FY 2024)	\$1,015,662,381 (-20% from FY 2024)
Increase in State Funding Needed (Percent of Current Funding)	\$162,724,969 (+42%)	\$253,915,595 (+51%)
Total Increase in State Funding Needed (Percent of Current Funding)	\$416,640,564 (+47%)	
Biennial Increase in State Funding Needed	\$833,281,128	