



Oregon Community Table on Postsecondary Education and Training(OCTPET)

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development Presentation

Presented by Tereas Alonso Leon and members
of OCTPET's Leadership Team

Legislative Presentation 4/24/2025



OCTPET was created to continue the work of the Joint Task force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education

- In 2021, HB2590 became a law
 - In 2022, HB2590 was implemented
 - **8-member Taskforce**
 - **House:** Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon/ Chair, Rep. Mark Owens, Rep. Ricki Ruiz, Rep. Jack Zika
 - **Senate:** Sen. Michael Dembrow, Sen. Lynn Findley, Senator Rob Wagner and honorary member Sen. Lew Fredrick
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JTUSHI Roadshow





HB 2590 Task Force Work

- Conducted virtual and in person site visits
 - Task force members held roundtable discussions with:
 - underrepresented students
 - classified staff
 - Faculty
 - Leaders in higher education
 - Held public meetings
 - Held virtual meetings
 - Met with students in our correctional facilities
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JTUSHI Roadshow





HB 2590 Task Force Work

- Formed three work groups
 1. Financial Aid
 2. Student Support and Wraparound Services
 3. Systemic Accountability and Continuous Improvement
 - Each work group was co-chaired by Task Force Members
 - Many policy proposals came out of the task force's findings and recommendations
 - Some of these policies are in Ways and Means right now
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Formation of OCTPET

- - In **2023**, CAPACES Leadership Institute hired Parakata Consulting LLC, a company owned by former State Representative Teresa Alonso Leon, to create Oregon's first statewide community advocacy group.
 - - In **2023**, an internship program was established.
 - - From **2023** to 2025, a recruitment process was initiated, which involved community members from across the state forming a membership made up of **students, parents, community leaders, education and community partners**, and individuals from **business and industry**. We currently have over **100 members** and counting.
 - Members received leadership training on the legislative, postsecondary education systems, and Civic Engagement
 - - 2024 The Education Champions Program was formed. We train students on how to engage in democracy.
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Goals of OCTPET

- Take what we learned from the Joint Task Force for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education (JTUSHI)
 - Center students in our work
 - Pass policies created or inspired by the work of the Task Force
 - Create new relevant policies
 - Train and prepare everyday students on civic engagement so they can have a voice on policies that impact them
 - Continue to recruit members from the broader community to engage in Postsecondary Education policies and continue with their trainings
 - Elevate Key policies impacting postsecondary education
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2025 Legislative Session

Joined Coalition Partners

- **HB 3182 & HB 3183** Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act Package
 - **HB2997** Permanent Grant Funding for CBO's and higher education programs serving college students
 - **SB979** Students with Disabilities Success Workgroup
 - Oregon Opportunity Grant: \$432,400,000 million
 - Public Universities Consolidated Funding: \$1.275B
 - Community College Funding ask \$920 M
 - Oregon Civics in Higher Education Act
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Training Everyday Students on how they can engage in democracy

- **2023-2024** we provided 2 trainings on Higher Education/HECC, Two Trainings on the Legislative System/Chief Clerks office
 - 11 Civic Engagement Trainings
 - 130 students and community member participants
 - **2025** January through April we provided 9 trainings
 - Over 170 students and community members participated
 - OCTPET staff attend Ways and Means Roadshow
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Civic engagement training



Ways and Means Road Show





Members of our Leadership Team consist of our staff and community and state partners

Staff

Teresa Alonso Leon: Program Lead

Jaime Rodriguez: Program Coordinator

Angelo Arredondo: Outreach Coordinator

Intern 1: **Brooke Busby** Willamette University

Intern 2: **Alex Gutierrez** Western Oregon University

Intern 3: **Deirdre Schafer** Eastern Oregon University

Community Partners

Matt Bisek: Executive Director of TRIO Oregon

Lisa Hahn: Senior Manager of College Success, College Possible Oregon

Joshua Eastin: Chair and Associate Professor, Dept. of Politics and Global Affairs, Portland State University

Masami Nishishiba: PSU Director, Mark O. Hatfield School of Government, Professor of Public Administration, Acting Director, The Nonprofit Institute, Portland State University

Gisela Foster: Multicultural Student Success Coordinator Office of Student Life & Civic Engagement Mt. Hood Community College

Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom: Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Oswaldo Avila: Inclusion and Equity Specialist, Higher Education Coordinating Commission



Reminder of who our underrepresented students are

- **Based on Oregon's HB 2590, underrepresented students include:** Rural communities, Low-income families, Disabilities (including developmental), Foster care system, LGBTQIA+, Undocumented
 - Defined in ORS 342.120: Black racial groups of Africa (not Hispanic) Hispanic culture or origin Far East, Southeast Asia, Indian Subcontinent, Pacific Islands American Indian or Alaska Native Speak a language other than English
- **Policy Language:** The task force shall visit public post-secondary institutions in this state to meet with prospective, current, and former students from underrepresented populations, including:
 - Students who qualify as an underrepresented person as defined in ORS 342.120, Students who qualify as diverse as defined in ORS 342.433, Students from rural communities, Students from low-income families, Students experiencing disabilities, including intellectual developmental disabilities, Students identifying as LGBTQIA+, Undocumented students, Students who have been in foster care.
- **Additional Students Student Voice Task Force recognized we should be advocating for:**
 - Student parents
 - Students in the military or veterans
 - Students who are or were incarcerated
 - Underserved Students



Thanks to our partner foundations for making our work possible

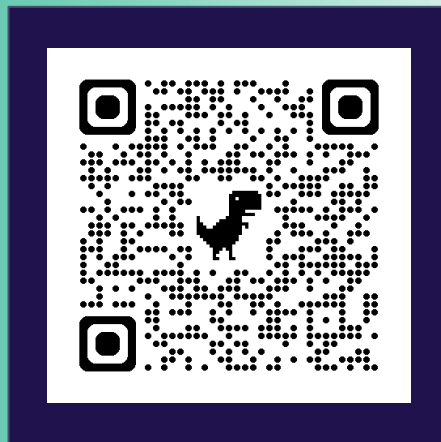
We are currently funded by several foundations: **Oregon Community Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, and Ford Family Foundation**

Earlier Funders: **Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Lumina Foundation, and Foundations for Better Oregon**



Thank you

*Check out our website [OCTPET - CAPACES Leadership Institute](https://capacesleadership.org/OCTPET)
or email us at capacescommunitytable@capacesleadership.org*



Instagram: @O.C.T.P.E.T

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