



**TO:** Members of the Legislative Assembly

**CC:** Senate Interim Committee on Education  
House Interim Committee on Higher Education  
Brett Hanes, Legislative Administrator

**FR:** Eastern Oregon University and Portland State University

**DT:** September 15, 2024

**RE:** HB 2802 Implementation Executive Summary and Report

---

**Executive Summary:**

Eastern Oregon University and Portland State University are submitting a report on the effectiveness of the pilot program in accordance with House Bill 2802 (2023). HB 2802 required the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish a pilot program at Portland State University and Eastern Oregon University to enhance the hiring of public university students by eligible nonprofit organizations. The following report describes the creation and implementation of the program over the past academic year. Programs will launch with student employment at nonprofit organizations during the 2024-2025 academic year.

To obtain a paper copy of this report, or for other questions regarding this report, please email the relevant university contact:

Eastern Oregon University: Tim Seydel, VP, Advancement, [tseydel@eou.edu](mailto:tseydel@eou.edu)

Portland State University: Kimberly Koops, AVP, Government Relations,  
[kimkoops@pdx.edu](mailto:kimkoops@pdx.edu)

Sincerely,

Tim Seydel  
Vice President, Advancement  
Eastern Oregon University

Kimberly Koops  
Associate Vice President, Government Relations  
Portland State University

## **Implementation:**

### **Portland State University**

PSU leveraged existing funding programs and partnerships to implement this pilot program, with a focus on building the workforce necessary to address some of Oregon's most pressing challenges, including behavioral health and food insecurity. Payment mechanisms, contract language, and student eligibility is set to mirror the Federal Work Study (FWS). Doing so has two distinct benefits. First, federal dollars can supplement the state support for paying these students' wages which both stretches federal funds and expands this opportunity to nonprofits with limited resources. Second, it helps meet the institutional obligation of using 7% of the FWS allocation to support students in community based positions. PSU has hundreds of students completing unpaid internships and practicums with area nonprofit organizations. With academic program support, we identified two nonprofit organizations that typically hosted 2-4 PSU students and met the eligibility requirements established by HB2802 to partner with.

In order to participate, eligible nonprofit organizations are nominated by a PSU program sponsor (typically a practicum placement director). That organization must then submit a FWS partner application and supplemental documentation including their 501(c)3 status letter, annual report or most recent financial statements, recently published collateral material, and a position description. During the pilot, PSU will consider up to 4 organizations as potential partners and will prioritize those who can support 2-4 students each year. Due to the limited capacity of the pilot program, students are also currently identified through a nomination from their practicum placement director. Students do have the option to decline participation without any impact on their practicum placement or other financial aid. If the program expands, students will be identified using a data-driven selection process prioritizing program, financial need, and GPA. Through the pilot program up to 5 students can participate annually.

### **Eastern Oregon University**

EOU is currently implementing the pilot program, utilizing regional connections in eastern Oregon, including the Rural Engagement and Vitality (REV) Center. The REV Center is a nonprofit startup affiliated with EOU and Wallowa Resources that works to connect nonprofits and rural organizations with students and faculty at the university to provide internships and experiential learning opportunities that benefit rural communities. Combining funds from HB 2802 with Federal Work Student funds and resources managed through the REV Center enables students to engage in hands-on academic and real world learning opportunities that may not be possible. Many first-generation and low-income students are unable to participate in an internship due to needing to make money to support their university education. Also, small rural nonprofits do not have the income to host a student intern.

Nonprofit partners are identified through projects underway with the REV Center, through existing programs with EOU, and with the engagement of regional community and local government leaders. Partners work with faculty sponsors, and EOU's Career Services Office and Student Affairs Division, to align nonprofit needs with interested students. Successful engagements provide identifiable learning outcomes for students and tangible results for the partner organization. Due to the very small size of numerous rural nonprofits, EOU staff provide support in developing position descriptions and learning objectives for the internships. EOU hopes to place a minimum of 5 students with the hopes of supporting up to 20, depending on funding availability and resources.

### **Program Administration:**

#### **Portland State University**

At Portland State University, this is a collaborative program with engaged staff from multiple departments across the university including:

- Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship
- Human Resources and Payroll
- School of Social Work: Practicum Education
- University Studies: Capstone Programming
- Contracts and Procurement Services
- Campus Accounting

#### **Eastern Oregon University**

EOU's program collaborates with numerous departments and programs, including:

- Office of Student Affairs
- Career Center
- Accounting, Payroll and Accounts Payable
- Office of Financial Aid
- University Advancement
- Office of the Provost

## **Students and Organizations Served:**

### **Portland State University**

By the end of 2023/2024, PSU formalized partnerships with William Temple House (WTH) and Sauvie Island Center (SIC). For the 2024/2025 academic year, there are 3 students with placements at WTH. SIC and their university partners are still working to identify two students to engage for the upcoming year.

### **Eastern Oregon University**

EOU plans to have three to five students placed in programs managed through the Rural Engagement and Vitality Center by the end of 2024. Additional students are anticipated to be placed with other rural nonprofit organizations in eastern Oregon during the 2024-2025 academic year, including local and regional arts centers, museums, behavioral health programs and community-based nonprofits, based on availability of students and nonprofit needs and capacity.

## **Challenges and Recommendations:**

Following a year of program creation and implementation, Portland State University and Eastern Oregon University have identified a small list of challenges and opportunities to continue and expand the pilot program.

- Remove the \$5M budget limitation for eligible nonprofit organizations. Smaller organizations often lack the resources to contribute to additional staff, even when heavily subsidized, or are unable to host multiple students in these roles with adequate training and support.
- Remove the prohibition on reimbursing nonprofit organizations more than 50% of the amount paid in wages, as this creates a barrier to students with undocumented immigration status from participating in the program.
- Expand the program. A program that only serves 5 students annually creates an accessibility gap as there is no clear way to prioritize eligible students in an equitable manner. Approximately 700 students have unpaid practicum placements with area nonprofits within the School of Social Work.