The Oregon Community College Association Board met on Friday, December 4, via Zoom from 9 a.m. to noon. The following are highlights of the meeting.

1. **OCCA Director's Report**. Cam Preus reminded the group that there are weekly calls with campuses regarding COVID-19 related matters; planning for the legislative session is underway; the virtual OCCA conference received high ratings of satisfaction from attendees; and OCCA is investigating why community colleges' enrollment is dramatically down relative to universities (this is a country-wide phenomenon, partly due to the decrease in adult basic skills education, but additional evidence needs to be collected to account for the decline).

2. **Treasurer Report.** Revenues and expenses are on track with expectations. The financial audit was completed in one day; no concerns were raised in the exit interview.

3. **Oregon Presidents Council Report.** Priorities for OPC have been focused and streamlined. The presidents are focusing on the legislative session, DEI, removing barriers for underserved students, and cybersecurity. The presidents met with the chief academic officers on 12/3 and discussed transfer, online education, and marketing.

4. **HECC Report.** HECC reported on three items:
   - **GEER.** There are three allocations from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund: 1. Emergency funds for students; all 17 colleges have signed agreements for this disbursement; 2. Distance learning funds, which should be available to colleges within a week; and 3. Funds for a statewide online course exchange program (5 sub-committees are meeting to work out key issues).
   - **Credit Transfer.** New statewide transfer agreements are underway for Business (close to completion), Computer Science (close to completion), and Criminal Justice (needs more time for completion). In addition to the program agreements, there is interest from the legislature and colleges for a common course numbering system for highly enrolled 100- and 200-level courses; such a system would be a boost for transfer agreements.
   - **Wireless.** HECC is working on completing a one-year contract with AT&T that will offer colleges the option to purchase hotspots for $20/mo/line.

5. **OSSC Report.** The Oregon Student Success Center Director, Elizabeth Cox Brand, reported that OSSC received funding from Jobs for the Future to train coaches for Guided Pathways; over 100 faculty participated in the first-ever Oregon Online Teaching Conference on 10/30/20; math faculty from 16 community colleges and 4 universities have been participating in Strong Start Oregon, identifying ways to help students progress successfully through math courses; and the Guided Pathways project is proceeding well, with all colleges

working on projects that meet the needs of their respective campuses in order to help students stay on track and complete their programs.

6. **OSBA Report.** K-12's biggest issue is getting students back in the classroom; 63% of schools statewide have no in-person classes, and online is not serving the needs of all students well. Issues of inequity are apparent in current delivery of instruction.

7. **DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion).** A guest speaker, Raquel Rall, made a presentation – "Role of the Board in JDEI Work" (FYI, "J" stands for justice). Major points from the presentation were:

   - Equity is a framework, a lens, a mindset that informs how a board approaches its work and asks questions.
   - Any one board's role probably varies at times, including being an initiator (starting equity work), catalyst (supporting work identified by others that is important), barrier (not prioritizing or giving attention to equity), or inhibitor (allowing biases to cloud work that needs to done).
   - Takeaways:
     - Make equity the agenda
     - Diversify the board room, through elections, invited guests, and community conversations
     - Make inquiry a priority and norm; ask a lot of questions
     - Be intentional and introspective; add equity to board goals and self-evaluation
     - Synergize efforts and push for accountability
   - To do list for boards:
     - **E**xamine disaggregated data
     - **Q**uestion areas of inequities
     - **U**nderstand you need experts
     - **I**nsist on clear timelines
     - **T**rack barriers with using equity lens
     - **Y**ield resources

8. **OCCA's DEI Statement.** The statement was adopted as a living document, subject to continual revision as DEI work evolves. The next Board meeting will require bylaw changes to create a DEI Committee.

9. **Legislative Update**.
   - The governor's budget included flat funding ($641M) for community colleges. The economic outlook remains better than predicted in early summer, with an expectation that the economy will have recovered by 2023.
   - OCCA is working on co-sponsors and supporters for the budget bill ask of $702M for community colleges plus $35M to address inequities caused by the pandemic.
   - Included in the packet were talking points for use with the legislature. Highlights include:

- ➢ The community college budget bill would give colleges the funding needed to maintain current services.
- ➢ Community colleges serve more under-represented and low-income students than any other sector of higher education.
- ➢ Colleges are an essential safety net for students.
- ➢ Community colleges are essential to responding to a recession, offering shorter-term programs directed at getting unemployed Oregonians retrained and back in the workforce as quickly as possible.
- ➢ Community colleges are nimble and can react quickly to local needs of both employers and job-seekers.
- ➢ Community colleges are an educational safety net for all Oregonians at any skill or educational level, especially those who have traditionally been marginalized.
- The CTE day in February (hosted by the community colleges to inform the legislature about career and technical education) will become, for 2021, CTE month. In the planning stage are events such as Workforce Wednesdays, regular electronic communications, and panel discussions with faculty/students/legislators during lunch.

10. OCCA Strategic Goals. The goals and strategies have been streamlined. Goals for the year are:
- Secure adequate funding to fulfill the mission of community colleges and achieve our goals
- Continue strengthening OCCA as an organizational entity
- Student success: eliminate achievement gaps and equitably prepare students to engage with the world they encounter