

PCC welcomes public input in accreditation review

PORTLAND, Ore. This spring Portland Community College (PCC) will host an 18-member visiting evaluation team from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities for its 10-year comprehensive self-study and full scale evaluation for re-accreditation.

(Insert this paragraph for Columbia Gorge Community College)

Inasmuch as PCC provides accreditation oversight for certain educational programs and services through a contractual agreement with Columbia Gorge Community College, members of the evaluation team will visit the college campus in The Dalles to review those programs and services under the contractual agreement.

(Insert this paragraph for Tillamook Bay Community College)

Inasmuch as PCC provides accreditation oversight for certain educational programs and services through a contractual agreement with Tillamook Bay Community College, members of the evaluation team will visit the college campus in Tillamook to review those programs and services under the contractual agreement.

The comprehensive review, required by the U.S. Department of Education, will be April 18-20. PCC enjoys current accreditation status through the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, which will conduct the review visit. The last comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation was in 1995. Interim and progress reports, visits and evaluations have since been conducted in 1997, 2000, 2001, and 2003.

The public is encouraged to send comments as they relate to the programs and services offered under the contractual agreement directly to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities at 8060 165th Avenue, N.E., Suite 100, Redmond, WA 98052-3981. Comments must be received no later than Friday, March 18.

Portland Community College is a multi-campus system covering a 1,500-square-mile college district in northwest Oregon. The college is the largest post-secondary institution in Oregon. It offers two-year degrees, one-year certificate programs, short-term training, alternative education, pre-college courses and life long learning. The college serves approximately 83,000 full- and part-time students each year.

News

Monday, February 7, 2005

Community colleges plead budget case to legislators

Higher education deals with lower funding levels

SARAH EVANS
Statesman Journal

February 7, 2005

At Portland Community College, tuition has increased 28 percent since the 2002-03 school year.

Linn-Benton Community College in Albany has cut 379 class sections and 41 full-time equivalent employee positions in the past two school years.

And Chemeketa Community College in Salem raised its tuition \$6 per credit hour this school year and eliminated two full-time faculty positions.

These are just a few of the impacts on Oregon's community colleges as the state has cut funding in the past several years. As the Legislature begins work on another state general fund budget, community college advocates are dismayed about the governor's proposal to give them fewer dollars yet again.

▼ ADVERTISEMENT ▼ College officials worry about more tuition increases, fewer programs and the continuation of a declining enrollment trend -- they have lost at least 75,000 students in the past four years -- at a time when many observers say that continuing education and work force training are crucial to reviving the state's economy.

"We are the economic engine, because we can train people who return to the labor market," said Cam Preus-Braly, commissioner of the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development. "It's disappointing that we know fewer students will be served in community colleges."

Gov. Ted Kulongoski said in his December budget message that he strongly supports higher education, and his budget proposal would increase funding for the Oregon University System by 2.1 percent.

Instead, money for the state's 17 community colleges was cut by 5.5 percent to \$388.4 million. That number became even more perplexing to college officials in early January when Kulongoski said in his State of the State speech that he "increased funding for community colleges and the university system."

By the numbers

Statewide, enrollment in community colleges has fallen as state support for them has declined.

State general fund money

1999-2001: \$420 million

2001-03: \$433 million

2003-05: \$411 million

2005-07 (governor's proposal):
\$388.4 million

Headcount enrollment

2000-01: 403,931

2001-02: 406,434

2002-03: 377,596

2003-04: 330,595

SOURCE: Oregon Department of
Community Colleges and Workforce
Development

Representatives in the governor's office since have said that they made a mistake when calculating the recommended budget for community colleges and that the dollar number should be higher.

Kulongoski's education policy adviser, James Sager, said that the governor's advisers thought they were making a larger investment in community colleges than what the budget actually showed.

Sager added that community colleges, as with many other sectors of the state budget, most likely will not get as much money as they would like.

"We're sorry that this confusion took place but we're going to try to rectify it," Sager said. "The governor has repeatedly talked about how pivotal the community colleges are. Not only are they the line of undergraduate studies that a lot of students take on the way to universities, but they also provide a large part of our workforce training in the state."

Sager would not commit to a specific dollar amount, but said that community colleges most likely would receive something higher than in the budget proposal, but less than the \$440 million the college officials say that they need.

Preus-Braly said the current proposal adds to an already disappointing trend. If the budget passes as proposed, community colleges will have lost at least \$51 million from the state since the beginning of 2002, she said.

Many of the colleges have responded to the cuts partly by raising tuition, making it more difficult for many students to attend, Preus-Braly said.

Another difficulty for students is fewer class sections to choose from, a result of many schools cutting sections to save money.

"Students are struggling to make ends meet and they feel closed out not just by tuition, but by not being able to get into the classes that are convenient to them," said Susan Hereford, a spokesperson for Portland Community College.

College officials and students already have lobbied the Legislature for more dollars, emphasizing the importance their schools play in the recovery of the state's economy.

Representatives from Chemeketa Community College spent an entire day last month meeting with local legislators and staffing information booths at the Capitol.

Chemeketa officials say that if the governor's proposal passes as is, they could lose \$1 million to \$3 million in state funding for next school year, depending on how the money is distributed to the colleges.

Officials still are discussing what this could mean for Chemeketa. President Gretchen Schuette said that most likely, they will have to consider increasing tuition by \$2 per credit hour and cutting programs.

On Chemeketa Day at the Capitol, several current and former students were among those who met with lawmakers to explain what community

colleges have meant to them.

Local business owner Von Glitschka told former Rep. Dan Doyle about his success working with Chemeketa's small-business management program. Glitschka lost his job about three years ago, and wanted to start his own graphic-design business.

He had no idea how to begin, but that changed after he went through the program. He said that his business, Glitschka Studios, has been successful and that he is ready to hire his first employee.

"(The program) took something that was completely foreign to me and put it in a format that enabled me to do it and to do it right," Glitschka said.

Terra Ashford, a full-time Chemeketa online student, said that tuition is one of her concerns. Ashford works three part-time jobs to help pay for her schooling. She said many community-college students are working, and sometimes raising families, while going to school.

Ashford, who also is on Chemeketa's student representative team, felt it was important to tell her story to the legislators.

"We want to make sure students are really represented here," she said.

Ashford met with Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem. Courtney later said that he supports community colleges because they provide important connections to educational and job opportunities.

"They are the linchpin in reviving Oregon's economy," Courtney said.

Courtney was confident that community colleges had a good chance during the upcoming session of seeing the \$388.4 million figure increase.

"The governor agrees with me and he knows there should be more money in that budget," he said. "There's going to be more money in that budget."

sevans@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6856

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College	Fall 2003 End of Term "Hold Harmless" Total FTE	Fall 2004 End of Term "Hold Harmless" Total FTE	Change from Fall 2003 to Fall 2004	Percent Change
Blue Mountain*	902.63	790.13	-112.50	-12.5%
Central Oregon	1,260.51	1,290.52	30.01	2.4%
Chemeketa	3,583.32	3,721.72	138.40	3.9%
Clackamas	2,625.61	2,439.65	-185.96	-7.1%
Clatsop	492.23	494.62	2.39	0.5%
Columbia Gorge	325.40	310.13	-15.27	-4.7%
Klamath	415.44	413.26	-2.18	-0.5%
Lane	3,873.64	3,493.71	-379.93	-9.8%
Linn-Benton	2,220.97	2,174.97	-46.00	-2.1%
Mount Hood	2,762.25	2,651.99	-110.26	-4.0%
Oregon Coast	158.14	151.03	-7.11	-4.5%
Portland	7,395.99	7,318.19	-77.80	-1.1%
Rogue	1,377.02	1,348.42	-28.60	-2.1%
Southwestern Oregon	1,115.11	1,122.73	7.63	0.7%
Tillamook Bay	95.38	100.72	5.34	5.6%
Treasure Valley	896.60	894.10	-2.50	-0.3%
Umpqua	1,094.26	1,243.31	149.05	13.6%
Total	30,594.50	29,959.20	-635.30	-2.1%

*Actual drop in FTE for BMCC between 2003 and 2004 was minimal (0.7%). Due to data system changes, FTEs formerly reported in Fall term have now been correctly shifted to Summer term.

College	Weeks in Fall term 2004	Fall 2004 End of Term Total FTE reported	Fall 2004 End of Term "Hold Harmless" Total FTE	Fall 2004 End of Term Reimbursabl e FTE reported	Fall 2004 End of Term "Hold Harmless" Reimbursable FTE
Blue Mountain	12	790.13	790.13	654.87	654.87
Central Oregon	12	1,290.52	1,290.52	1,244.48	1,244.48
Chemeketa	11	3,411.58	3,721.72	3,281.94	3,580.30
Clackamas	11	2,236.35	2,439.65	2,195.92	2,395.55
Clatsop	11	453.40	494.62	440.53	480.58
Columbia Gorge	12	310.13	310.13	307.98	307.98
Klamath	11	378.82	413.26	377.08	411.36
Lane	11	3,202.57	3,493.71	3,108.11	3,390.67
Linn-Benton	11	1,993.72	2,174.97	1,878.88	2,049.69
Mount Hood	12	2,651.99	2,651.99	2,604.21	2,604.21
Oregon Coast	11	138.44	151.03	137.75	150.27
Portland	12	7,318.19	7,318.19	7,042.94	7,042.94
Rogue	11	1,236.05	1,348.42	1,193.10	1,301.56
Southwestern Orego	11	1,029.17	1,122.73	1,001.34	1,092.37
Tillamook Bay	12	100.72	100.72	97.04	97.04
Treasure Valley	12	894.10	894.10	648.25	648.25
Umpqua	11	1,139.70	1,243.31	1,111.54	1,212.59
Total		28,575.58	29,959.20	27,325.96	28,664.70

College	Fall 2003 End of Term "Hold Harmless" Reimbursabl e FTE	Fall 2004 End of Term "Hold Harmless" Reimbursabl e FTE	Change from Fall 2003 to Fall 2004	Percent Change
Blue Mountain*	697.36	654.87	-42.49	-6.1%
Central Oregon	1,229.96	1,244.48	14.52	1.2%
Chemeketa	3,426.94	3,580.30	153.36	4.5%
Clackamas	2,574.16	2,395.55	-178.61	-6.9%
Clatsop	476.69	480.58	3.88	0.8%
Columbia Gorge	322.78	307.98	-14.80	-4.6%
Klamath	407.93	411.36	3.43	0.8%
Lane	3,759.41	3,390.67	-368.75	-9.8%
Linn-Benton	2,090.14	2,049.69	-40.45	-1.9%
Mount Hood	2,691.68	2,604.21	-87.47	-3.2%
Oregon Coast	157.64	150.27	-7.36	-4.7%
Portland	7,117.50	7,042.94	-74.56	-1.0%
Rogue	1,342.72	1,301.56	-41.16	-3.1%
Southwestern Oregon	1,089.74	1,092.37	2.63	0.2%
Tillamook Bay	89.73	97.04	7.31	8.1%
Treasure Valley	698.79	648.25	-50.54	-7.2%
Umpqua	1,064.15	1,212.59	148.44	13.9%
Total	29,237.33	28,664.70	-572.63	-2.0%

*Actual drop in FTE for BMCC between 2003 and 2004 was minimal (0.7%). Due to data system changes, FTEs formerly reported in Fall term have now been correctly shifted to Summer term.

Winter Term (051) 01/31/2005 Daily Enrollment 19th Day of Class

Tillamook Bay Community College Office of Institutional Research		Winter 2003-04 End of Term	Winter 2003-04 2/3/2004	Winter 2004-05 1/28/2004	Difference	Percent Change
College Totals	Unduplicated Headcount	1007	788	740	-48.00	-6.09%
	Duplicated Headcount	1459	1159	1201	42.00	3.62%
	Total FTE	89.41	74.49	85.55	11.06	14.85%
	Reimbursable FTE	84.11	69.66	82.53	12.87	18.47%
	Full-time	34	34	62	28.00	82.35%
	Part-time	190	192	200	8.00	4.17%