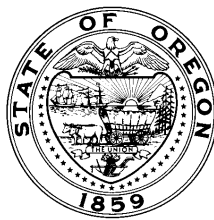


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Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development Administrative Overview March 2001

Introduction

The Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development provides financial and program support to a variety of institutions, including Oregon community colleges, workforce investment boards, workforce service providers, the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, and family literacy service providers. The agency's mission is to increase the skills, knowledge and career opportunities of Oregonians statewide.

History

Prior to 1987, the responsibility of community college and workforce development oversight was placed with the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon State Board of Education, and the Oregon Economic Development Department. In 1987, revisions to Oregon Revised Statute 341 (1987 Oregon Law, Chapter 474) instructed the State Board of Education to provide "a separate identifiable place on its agenda six times a year for community college services." The same revisions also appointed a Commissioner who would serve as the executive head of the Office of Community College Services (OCCS). Duties were transferred from the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Commissioner for Community College Services. In 1987, the Legislative Assembly also created the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) for the purpose of providing education, training, and employment opportunities to disadvantaged and at-risk youth from 16 to 25 years of age. (1987 Oregon Law, Chapter 326).

In 1989, the Legislative Assembly moved the administration of fund allocation and program guidance to the Office of Community College Services (OCCS) from the Oregon Department of Education (1989 Oregon Law, Chapter 491). These duties included the administration of fund allocation and program guidance. 1991 brought action by the Legislative Assembly (1991 Oregon Law, Chapter 757) that enabled the fledgling office to hire staff and distribute federal grant money to fund Oregon community colleges.

In 1993 the Legislative Assembly voted to continue the agency past its scheduled sunset date and the fledgling office continued to operate under the authority of the State Board of Education as a part of the Oregon Department of Education.

The 1997 Legislative Assembly transferred the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), a federal job retraining program to the Office of Community College Services from the Economic Development Department. With that action (1997 Oregon Law, Chapter 61), the agency became the contact when employers were going to close a plant or have a reduction in workforce. With this action, the scope of the agency changed dramatically and began to include the retraining of Oregon workers.

Another substantial change to the agency was brought about by the 1999 Legislative Assembly renamed the Department of Community College and Workforce Development under the 'direction and control' of the State Board of Education. That action effectively removed the department from the auspices of the Oregon Department of Education (1999 Oregon Law, Chapter 39) and established the stand-alone agency. That year as well, the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps was transferred to the agency from the State Commission on Children and Families.

Organization

The Oregon Department of Community College and Workforce Development (DCCWD) consists of 4 sections that are coordinated by a central operations team.

The Administrator's Office is responsible for oversight and direction of the agency.

Community Colleges is responsible for the distribution of state funds, maintenance of the statewide reporting system, and approval of courses and programs for community colleges statewide.

The Operations section provides accountability, coordination, and technical assistance to the community colleges and local workforce investment programs.

The Oregon Youth Conservation Corps is guided by a citizen advisory board to provide youth with challenges to employment, opportunities for training, education, and skill building.

The Workforce Development section is responsible for the distribution of state funds, maintains the statewide workforce reporting system, and monitoring of Oregon programs to insure federal Workforce Investment Act compliance. The section also responds to situations where an Oregon employer is laying off members of its workforce.

Chronology

- 1962 The Department of Education reorganizes into six divisions with the newly named Division of Community Colleges responsible for industrial, adult, and lower division collegiate education.
- 1966 Further realignments at the Department of Education produced the Community Colleges and Vocational Education Division overseeing vocational education, adult education, civil defense, and lower division collegiate programs.
- 1968 The new Division of Community Colleges and Vocational Education is responsible for community college programs in secondary, post-secondary, and adult vocational education; adult and continuing education; and civil defense.
- 1970 The Division of Community Colleges, Career Education, and Instructional Technology's responsibilities include career programs, special programs, adult and continuing education, radio and television programs, and library resources.
- 1976 The Superintendent of Public Instruction is responsible for five divisions including the Community Colleges Division which has oversight for administrative, educational, and student services.

- 1981 The Oregon Community College Telecommunications Consortium is formed to expand learning opportunities for community college students statewide through the use of telecourses and other non-traditional means.
- 1984 The Office of Community College Services include instructional services such as college transfer, adult basic education, GED, and community schools.
- 1987 The Legislative Assembly creates the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps.
- 1989 The Legislative Assembly creates the pilot program of Oregon Community Services Corps under the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps.
- 1998 The Federal Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act is passed which provides for technical education resources to be made available to community colleges. All states participating in the Perkins program must file a periodic 'state plan' which incorporates public comment into the process.

In December 1998, the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps moved to the Department of Community College and Workforce Development from the State Commission on Children and Families.

Oregon Administrative Rules

OAR 589

Oregon Revised Statutes

ORS 341 - Community Colleges

ORS 285A - Workforce Development

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