



**NEWSLETTER**  
**October 18, 2011**

## ACCT Award Recipients

Congratulations to Mary Spilde, president of Lane Community College and recipient of the 2011 Marie Y. Martin Chief Executive Award given at the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Awards Gala on Friday, October 14, in Dallas, Texas. The full list of national award recipients can be found [here](#).

Regional award winners were previously announced in late August. Pacific Region award winners from Oregon included Mary Spilde (Lane Community College)--ACCT Regional Chief Executive Officer Award; Jim Harper (Portland Community College)--ACCT Regional Trustee Leadership Award; and Tria Bullard (Columbia Gorge Community College)--ACCT Regional Professional Board Staff Member Award. The full list of regional winners can be found [here](#).

## Student Success Symposium

Board members Harold Williams (Portland Community College), Ernie Keller (Columbia Gorge Community College), and Dave Shields (Mt. Hood Community College), Lane Community College president Mary Spilde, and OCCA executive director Andrea Henderson attended the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) symposium on student success in Dallas last week. Sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the symposium focused on sharing a comprehensive overview of key information related to student success and asked participants to formulate public policy recommendations for next steps around student success. "Attending the symposium has shown me Oregon is doing a great job. Our pathways are helping students successfully navigate their way through school," Keller noted.

## Meeting Updates

### OCCA Board

At the OCCA board meeting on October 7, Tim Nesbitt (manager of the Education Investment Project with the Governor's Office) spoke about the work of the Governor's office on education reform in Oregon. The [Oregon Education](#)

### National News

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) reports that the Senate failed to get the 60 votes necessary to consider the President's American Jobs Act on October 12. Included in the \$447 billion package is \$5 billion for community college modernization (\$71 million for Oregon community colleges.) Both the President and the Senate indicated they planned to move forward with the proposal considering it in pieces. The House also considered and passed the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) extension through December 2013, which maintains the TAA Community College and Career Training Grant program. The Senate has already passed the TAA extension and it is anticipated the President will sign it into law.

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### OUS Firearms Decision

In late September, the Oregon Court of Appeals issued a decision invalidating the Oregon University System (OUS) and the Board of Higher Education's administrative rule prohibiting the possession of firearms on university campuses. The administrative rule challenge was brought by the Oregon Firearms Federation in 2009. The court stated in its ruling that the OUS administrative rule is invalid because it is preempted by state law and OUS does not have the authority to regulate firearms because the Legislature has not expressly given this authority to them. State law (ORS 166.170) provides that only the Legislature has authority to regulate firearms. The court held that this statute preempts the OUS rule even though the Legislature has given OUS the broad authority in statute to control and manage university properties. While the court held the OUS administrative rule invalid, current Oregon law prohibits the possession of firearms and other dangerous weapons in or on public buildings, including universities and community colleges. Law enforcement officers and concealed handgun licensees are exempt from this prohibition.

### PERS Overpayments

[Investment Board](#) was created to work to create a seamless, unified system for investing in and delivering public education from early childhood through high school and college. A PDF version of Mr. Nesbitt's PowerPoint presentation can be found on our [website](#).

## Oregon Education Investment Board

Governor John Kitzhaber chaired the first unofficial meeting of his Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) last week, starting a wide-ranging conversation about how to change the way Oregon invests in measuring the success of education from pre-kindergarten through college.

Drawing from the work done over the summer by LearnWorks participants, members of OEIB discussed approaches to creating a system that budgets to outcomes. The board seemed to agree that the majority of state dollars should fund basic operation for schools, colleges and universities. However, in a breakout group chaired by former Republican gubernatorial candidate Ron Saxton, it was unclear what method might be used to create budget incentives for making progress on outcomes.

While some members of the group believed that institutions should receive performance funding for reaching certain outcomes (such as proficiency in reading at the third grade level), others argue that funding should reward progress from year to year. Simply rewarding progress instead of a set goal would not disadvantage institutions that serve lower income or minority communities, for example, where students often start educationally less prepared.

The OEIB is charged with preparing a report to the governor by December 15 to make recommendations on these issues.

## Oregon Student Assistance Commission

On October 10, the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) held an all-day Strategic Planning Committee meeting in Salem. At the meeting, the attendees defined OSAC's mission statement: "To create a college-going culture for all Oregonians by providing access through information, mentoring and financial support," and vision statement: "An organization of innovation and excellence in a leading college-going state." A list of organizational values was developed to include responsible risk taking, integrity, respect, partnerships, stewardship, leadership, excellence and responsiveness.

Attendees brainstormed strategies for future initiatives and a description of goals and outcomes. An initiative of particular interest is an emphasis on program expansion, which was defined as an expansion of ASPIRE, donor development, scholarship applications, opportunity grants and other state and federal

The Oregon Supreme Court issued decisions last week in several cases involving PERS retirees who retired between April 1, 2000 and April 1, 2004. These so-called "window retirees" PERS accounts were over-credited with 20% investment returns in 1999. The crediting of 20% investment returns was challenged in court by public employers, and led to legislation in 2003 setting the earning allocation for the year 1999 at 11.33% instead of 20%. When the PERS Board attempted to collect the overpayments from the window retirees, these lawsuits were filed. Portland Community College was one of the named defendants in these cases, along with the City of Portland, several Oregon universities and school districts, and the PERS Board. In their rulings, the Court held that PERS has the authority to collect the overpayments from retirees and that there is no contact right to these payments. This means that more than \$800 million in overpayments will be recouped and returned to the retirement system.

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## Net Price Calculator

By the end of October every college and university in the United States must have a "Net Price Calculator" on their website. The U.S. Department of Education mandate (the Higher Education Opportunity Act) which goes into effect October 31, 2011.

In accordance with the *Higher Education Opportunity Act* of 2008 (HEOA), by October 29, 2011, each postsecondary institution that participates in Title IV federal student aid programs must post a net price calculator on its website that uses institutional data to provide estimated net price information to current and prospective students and their families based on a student's individual circumstances. The net price calculator is required for all Title IV institutions that enroll full-time, first-time degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students. More information can be found [here](#).

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**OCCA Annual Conference**  
**October 27-29, 2011**  
**Salishan Resort, Gleneden Beach**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

State Board Meeting  
October 20-21, 2011  
Salem, Oregon

OCCA Annual Conference  
October 27-29, 2011  
Salishan Lodge, Gleneden Beach

OSBA Conference

funds. During the meeting, it was stressed that achievement of many of the initiatives are dependent upon Oregon's high schools fully utilizing electronic transcripts. Throughout the meeting, there was also attention to the mentoring and financial needs of all of Oregon's college-going populations.

November 11-13, 2011  
Salem, Oregon

Oregon Presidents Council  
November 17-18, 2011  
Tigard, Oregon

AAWCC Conference  
November 17-18, 2011  
Tigard, Oregon

State Board  
December 1-2, 2011  
Salem, Oregon

Oregon Presidents Council  
December 8-9, 2011  
McMinnville, Oregon

OCCA Board  
December 9, 2011  
McMinnville, Oregon

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