



The Oregon IDEA - Today's Education, Tomorrow's Economy

The Oregon Idea is a coalition of small business owners, CEOs, community leaders, and alumni of Oregon's community colleges and universities who share a common vision for Oregon's post-secondary education system. The Oregon Idea believes that investing in post-secondary education today will lead to economic prosperity tomorrow. Their three-part legislative agenda:

- Oregon must reform its university system to ensure access for Oregonians.
- Oregon must prioritize investments in its network of community colleges.
- Oregon must prioritize investments in its only health and research university (OHSU).

View their [fact sheet](#) or visit [The Oregon IDEA](#) website to learn more about the organization's policy goals, to sign up to receive news alerts and to find them on Facebook and Twitter.

Legislative Committee Membership

Legislative committees have organized and began hearing bills last week. Committee information can be found on our website's [2011 Legislative Session](#) page and on the [Oregon State Legislature](#) website. Education committee membership includes:

House Education

Sara Gelser, Co-Chair
Matt Wingard, Co-Chair
Jason Conger, Co-Vice Chair
Lew Frederick, Co-Vice Chair
John E Huffman
Betty Komp
Julie Parrish
Jefferson Smith

House Higher Education Subcommittee

Michael Dembrow, Co-Chair
Mark Johnson, Co-Chair
Jefferson Smith, Co-Vice Chair
Sherrie Sprenger, Co-Vice Chair
Shawn Lindsay
Tobias Read

Senate Education and Workforce Development

Mark Hass, Chair

National News in Education

Today, the House will consider a bill to reauthorize the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, which extends assistance to workers who lose their jobs as a result of foreign trade. The TAA program governs the Community College Career Training Grant Program (CCCTGP). The bill would extend authorization for the 'TAA for Communities' program and Sector Partnership Grants until June 30, 2011; however, a \$238 million cut to the CCCTGP for 2014 is included. The CCCTGP is a critical investment in the long-term competitiveness and innovative capacity of community colleges.

Next week, the House is expected to act on a funding measure that makes \$12.33 billion in combined cuts to the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (7.3% of current funding) through the end of FY 2011. Specific programmatic cuts should be announced this week.

NSC Hosts Audio Update

Join the National Skills Coalition as they host an audio conference to discuss the President's Fiscal Year 2012 budget on Monday, February 28 at 1:00 pm ET. The conference will include several speakers who will discuss the budget proposal as it relates to workforce education and training. [Register online](#) at the National Skills Coalition website.

Legislative Media Coverage

Live and archived video and audio coverage of all legislative proceedings, including committee hearings, Senate and House floor sessions and news conferences, can be found on the Legislature's [Audio/Video](#) website page.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ACCT 2011 National Legislative Summit

Frank Morse, Vice-Chair
Suzanne Bonamici
Larry George
Chip Shields

Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee

Sen. Rod Monroe, Co-Chair
Rep. Betty Komp, Co-Chair
Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, Co-Chair
Rep. Michael Dembrow, Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Bill Garrard, Co-Vice Chair
Sen. Chris Edwards
Sen. Fred Girod

Senate Democrats Release Legislative Agenda

The Senate Democrat office released their 2011 legislative session agenda late last week, focusing on three key areas:

- Rebuilding the economy by helping Oregon small businesses create jobs and by providing our children with a quality education.
- Supporting Oregon families and businesses that play by the rules by going after those who break the law, cheat consumers, and deceive investors.
- Improving government accountability and responsiveness so we can protect vital services for working families.

The full legislative agenda can be found [here](#).

February 13-16, 2011
Washington, DC

OCCA Legislative Summit
February 23-24, 2011
Salem Conference Center, Salem

OCCA Board
February 24, 2011
Oregon State Library, Salem

Oregon Presidents Council
February 25, 2011
OCCA Office, Salem

State Board of Education
March 10-11, 2011
Oregon Department of Education,
Salem

Oregon Presidents Council
March 31-April 1, 2011
OCCA Office, Salem

OCCA Board
April 1, 2011
Oregon State Library, Salem

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<http://www.occa17.com>