

# Access to college is directly related to funding.

In the upcoming 2007 legislative session, the Oregon Community College Association will be requesting an investment in the Community College Support Fund of \$529 million. This is an increase of \$46 million over the amount the Governor included in his recommended budget. Here's why we believe that investment is prudent and necessary.

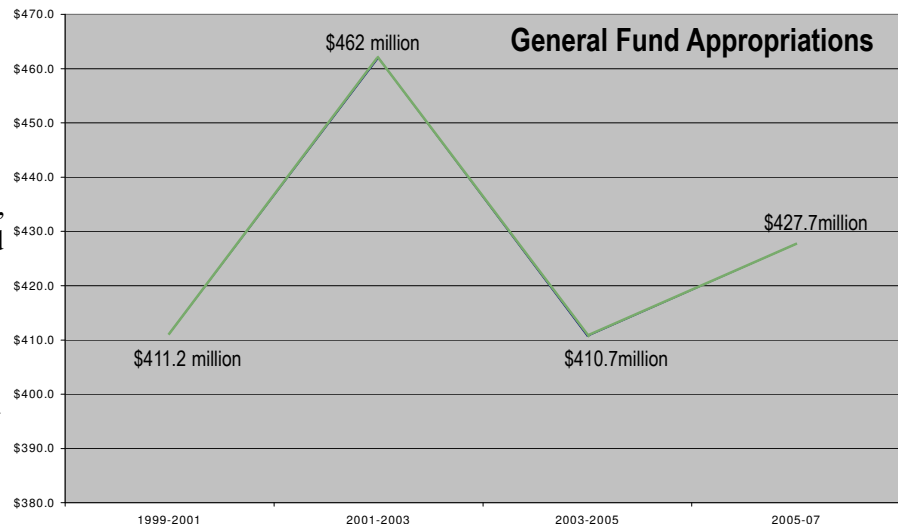
## Access

The appropriation to the Support Fund has been volatile in recent sessions making it impossible for the colleges to maintain all programs and services. In response, colleges have had to increase tuition and close class sections, thus limiting access for thousands of Oregonians.

Enrollments have dropped by more than 50 thousand students since the 2000-2001 school year.

## Partnerships

Community colleges are directly responsive to the needs of Oregon businesses. In every area of the state, community colleges offer customized training to meet the needs of local industries. In recent years, the colleges have had to turn down requests from their business partners because they didn't have the capacity to serve them.



## Family Wage Jobs

The most expensive-to-maintain courses are those professional and technical areas of study that propel students directly into family wage jobs. In fact, emerging data show that the State actually gets a 19% return on its investment in community colleges through increased taxable wages. Without an investment in community colleges, the State, in order to fund other costly services, may have to raise taxes to make up for this revenue loss.

## Participation

The Education Commission of the States estimates that Oregon must provide *expanded* postsecondary access to 106,842 additional students by 2015 in order to match the participation rate for the best performing "benchmark" states based on demographic predictions.

### Postsecondary Participation

Student age	# of students in 2000	projected # of students in 2015 at current rate	% change 2000-15 at current rate	projected # of students in 2015 at benchmark rate	% change 2000-15 to reach benchmark	Participation Gap in 2015
18-24	100,319	102,620	+2%	159,265	+59%	56,645
25+	103,190	128,715	+25%	178,912	+73%	50,197
All (18+)	203,509	231,335	+14%	338,177	+66%	106,842

Based on the U.S. Census 2000 questionnaire, postsecondary participation means a person residing in the state attended a public or private degree-granting college or university at any time since February 2000.