

## 2007 Legislative Agenda



### Invest in Opportunity

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. The Governor's budget level will provide funds to maintain existing programs in most colleges but require further cuts at a few colleges. If community colleges are to fulfill their mission in preparing skilled workers for Oregon's economic growth, the State must make prudent investments. The time has come to offer Oregonians opportunity and hope.

### Invest in the Future

In the upcoming 2007 legislative session, the Oregon Community College Association will be requesting an investment in Community College Capital Construction of \$108.3 million in Article X1-G General Obligation Bonds. If we are to close the participation gap by 2015, community colleges must expand their physical capacity to serve an additional 100,000 students. The package includes projects for each of Oregon's seventeen community colleges and, since it requires a dollar-for-dollar local match, it insures a trusted stewardship of public resources. The Governor's budget recommended \$87.1 million to fund 12 projects.

### Invest in Hope

Great strides were made last year to provide Oregon Opportunity Grant funding to low income students including, for the first time ever, students enrolled half time. During the interim, a broad-based work group has been examining financial aid challenges for Oregon post-secondary students and is recommending what they call a "Shared Responsibility Model." The Oregon Community College Association participated in the work group and supports funding for the model. To give Oregonians of all economic means hope for a college education, public and private investments must share the responsibility. The Governor's recommended budget includes full funding for the Shared Responsibility Model for the second year of the biennium.