PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY:
CLOSING OPPORTUNITY GAPS AND INCREASING ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Marc Goldberg, Associate Vice President Workforce Development and Continuing Ed
Kate Kinder, Career Pathways and Skills Training Director
Pathways to Opportunity is a statewide initiative closing opportunity gaps and increasing economic mobility by expanding the federal, state, and local resources available to low-income students so more individuals can attend and complete college.
Our community is at a critical point.

The wealthiest Oregon community is West Portland with a per capita income of $53,122.

The least wealthy Oregon community is East Portland with a per capita income of $20,321.

Source: 2015 US Census ACS table S1902
OPPORTUNITY GAPS PERSISTS

There is a $5 difference in median hourly wage between a white worker and person of color in Oregon.

Since 1980, these wage inequities have worsened, not improved.
SKILLS GAP

Job Openings by Skill Level, Oregon, 2014-2024

- High-Skill: 30%
- Middle-Skill: 46%
- Low-Skill: 23%

Source: NSC analysis of long-term occupational projections from state labor/employment agency.

Jobs and Workers by Skill Level, Oregon, 2015

- High-Skill Jobs: 30%
- High-Skill Workers: 40%
- Middle-Skill Jobs: 50%
- Middle-Skill Workers: 50%
- Low-Skill Jobs: 20%
- Low-Skill Workers: 30%

Nationally, 99% of jobs created during the recovery have gone to workers with at least some college education, while those with a high school diploma or less are being left behind.

Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Community Colleges</th>
<th>4-year Colleges and Universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Insecurity</td>
<td>42-56%</td>
<td>36-41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Insecurity</td>
<td>46-60%</td>
<td>36-48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homelessness</td>
<td>12-18%</td>
<td>9-14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

63% of PCC students surveyed experienced food insecurity

Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab’s presentation, Pathways to Opportunity Spring Summit: May 2, 2019
Unmet need is a significant barrier to student enrollment and completion, and the lack of public policies to address it poses a significant challenge to improving access and advancing equity within postsecondary education.

Source: Average Estimated Undergraduate Budgets, 2017-2018, College Board, https://edtu.st/2Q3VdwV
**National Recognition:** Oregon’s work is highlighted in new CLASP report, *Leveraging Public Benefits to Improve States’ Postsecondary Access and Completion*, by leading researcher, Amy Ellen Duke-Benfield

**Oregon** is the first state to enact legislation that instructs state agencies and colleges to better align public benefits to support postsecondary attendance for students with low incomes. Passed in 2018, HB 4043 created Oregon’s Pathways and Opportunity initiative, which expands the federal, state, and local resources available to students with low incomes. HB 4043 directed the community colleges to join state agencies, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), the Office of the Governor, and other stakeholders to:

- Learn about state or federal programs that offer financial or other benefits to community college students;
- Apply for benefits described in paragraph (a) of this subsection;
- In conducting the study required under subsection (2) of this section, community colleges shall convene relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to:
OREGON’S COMMUNITY COLLEGE STEP (SNAP 50/50) CONSORTIA

- Skill Development and Credential Completion
- Economic Mobility and Pathways out of Poverty
- Workforce Development: Partnerships, Sector Strategies, Industry input
- Access, Equity, and Inclusion
BUILDING ON BEST PRACTICES

< 29 = 2x wages

$9,600 for Pell

+ $5,000 / 19%

3x

Certificates since 2007
STEP — WHERE POLICY AND PRACTICE MEET

• SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps) = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

• STEP = SNAP Training Employment Program, Oregon’s SNAP 50/50

• SNAP 50/50 is a federal reimbursement grant where providers are reimbursed for 50% of their expenses to enhance, enhance, or create new services for SNAP recipients

• Reimbursement is reinvested back into the program, providing key staffing and support services for students (tuition, fees, books, tools, transportation, etc.)
ALIGNMENT OF VALUES AND BUDGET = ROI

- Anticipate PCC’s FFY 20 Budget = $1.9 million and 325k student support; Consortia budget of over $8 million

- With continued baseline funding and reinvestment, Oregon community colleges could see STEP grow from $5.065 million to $13.44 million in 2 biennia

- This same approach to investing resources could bring in $39 million in federal funding to all 17 of Oregon’s community colleges between FY 19 and FY 25
NEXT STEPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

• **Significant expansion of SNAP Student Eligibility**

• All 17 community colleges part of STEP Consortia

• Systemic approach to braiding together holistic services and resources for students

• Continuing **national recognition and leadership position for Oregon and PCC**

• Building Pathways to Opportunity Coalition, with multiple strategies to fund and propel statewide work

• Listen to students, community, and employers; **Closing opportunity gaps is a social justice and economic development**
Marc Goldberg, marc.goldberg1@pcc.edu
Kate Kinder, skinder@pcc.edu

Report and more information can be found on President Mitsui's web page (Initiatives: Pathways to Opportunity Link) http://www.pcc.edu/about/administration/president/pathways/