

**Legislative Update  
May 21st 2015**

To: Board of Director and Cabinet  
From: Meghan Moyer, Director of Government Relations  
RE: May 21st Legislative Update

**Budget:**

The May Revenue Forecast came out last week and it was very good news. The Legislative Fiscal Office has revising up the 2015-17 revenue projections by a total of \$463 million. This will substantially increase our chances of getting the Community College Support Fund up to \$550 million. If you would like to review the May Forecast in more detail you can view the report [here](#).

The Legislature has already promised \$105 million to the K-12 system and it is likely that they will be conservative with spending all the new revenue do to fears about PERS and wildfire season. Currently there are rumors that the legislature is interested in dedicating the last \$15 million for the CCSF specifically to CTE programs. If this is structured in a flexible way it probably is not an issue for us but we will be watching it very closely to make sure we have the flexibility we need to invest in other areas such as support services for students. That being said, now is the time to put the pressure on the Legislature regarding funding the full \$550 million for the CCSF. If you have not done so yet, please call the legislators who overlap your PCC district and ask them to fund the CCSF at \$550 million. Please leave messages if you do not reach the legislator.

Future Connect - PCC has a few other funding priorities we are working on outside the CCSF. One of our top non-CCSF budget asks is HB 3063 which would give \$3 million to the HECC to fund Aspirations to College programs. We are asking for \$1 million of this to be directed to PCC's Future Connect program so that we can serve more students. With the revenue forecast being up there is a greater chance we will get funding but it is still unclear where this falls on people's priority list and how much money we will receive. Much of my lobbying efforts over the last few weeks is to ask legislators to put this on their short list of priorities. That effort has been successful and we are growing our list of champions.

Margaret Carter Skill Center - PCC is requesting continued funding of \$300,000 for the operations of the Skill Center. Our conversations have been very positive with the Ways & Means members and Lew Frederick has been championing this issue. We have sent key legislators a wonderful video highlighting the great work of the Skill Center and continue to communicate its value to the local community. We have struggled to coordinate lobbying with Senator Carter but continue to try to schedule a day to lobby together.

Third Shift of Welding on Swan Island - We are working with Vigor Industries to ask the legislature to help fund adding a third shift of welding on Swan Island. This would increase the number of students we could serve by 50 a year. This is a priority for Vigor and we currently have waitlists for the program. We spent a day in the capital with Vigor's lobbyist speaking about this ask. All conversations we have had are positive but it will be important to have Vigor follow up with key legislators reminding them of this ask.

Career Pathways - We are supporting efforts to preserve the career pathways programs in Oregon. PCC is losing several staff due to lack of grant funding and we are exploring several options with the legislature to at least partially fill the whole. The fate of this budget request is very unclear.

**Legislation:**

SB 81 – Free Community College Bill - This bill is likely not to go anywhere but still has some very vocal support from Sen. Hass and a few others. With the increased revenue forecast this will have to be watched closely.

SB 84 – Dual Credit Bill - This bill is also not likely to move forward but work is being done to amend the bill and keep it alive and moving forward. This is another Sen. Hass bill and He will likely push very hard to pass one of his priority bills so this bill will need to be watched closely as well.

SB 113 – Staffing Ratio Bill - Amendments are being drafted for this bill and it is likely to move forward. It will require community college to report how many workers they have that fit certain classifications.

SB 215 – OEIB Restructure Bill - An 89 page amendment was adopted today in the Senate Rules Committee which strips much of the power out of the OEIB. We are still analyzing the impact of the changes on PCC but HECC will remain and retain their authority. Achievement compacts are going away.

SB 322 – Fifth Year of High School Bill - This bill died in committee which means the fifth year programs run by many community colleges will continue to grow. We supported ending the fifth year of high school program because of its negative impact on the K12 budgets of districts who do not run this type of program. In light of no legislative action we may want to discuss our options.

SB 702 – OEIB Health Insurance for Part-Time Faculty Bill - This bill will not be moving forward but an amendment will be added to SB 113 to direct the HECC to student what the right way to calculate a threshold for eligibility for half-time or greater faculty to qualify for health coverage should be.

HB 2410 – Non-Credit Certificates Bill - This bill has passed! We believe we will be able to take advantage of this new law with several possible certificates in non-credit programs. The CLIMB Center is particularly interested in exploring some possible certificates related to small business.

HB 2662 – Pay It Forward Bill - This bill is unlikely to move forward but it is still technically alive. It has some powerful champions who would like it to move but I don't think they will spend the money on it. We question the economic feasibility of this model.

HB 2781 – Open Educational Resources Bill - This bill is likely to pass and we have an amendment to ensure OERs are developed meeting accessibility standards set by the HECC. We are very interested in possibly apply for one of the grants that will be made available from this bill.

HB 3063 – Future Connect Funding Bill - Please see detail about. We are working to get this bill assigned to the Education Sub-Committee of Ways and Means and a hearing scheduled.

HB 5024 – CCSF Budget Bill - This bill contains the Community College Support Fund and is likely going to start moving in the next week or two. We are hopeful to get the full \$550 we are requesting. Now is the time to put pressure on the legislature to follow through on this commitment without putting major strings on the funding.

**Action Items:**

Call your Legislators - It is so important that we are making our presence felt in the capital right now. If you have not done so, please call all the legislators that fall under your district and ask them to fund the CCSF at \$550. Leave them a voice mail if no one answers the phone. If any board member has a morning or afternoon in the next two weeks to come down to the Capital to have some face to face conversations with legislators please let me know and I will facilitate that visit.

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