



Community College Association

Oregon

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The release of the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) included two starkly different paths for Oregon's Community Colleges.

The GRB "Base Budget" includes no new revenue to the state and makes deep cuts in both community colleges and public universities. The "Investment Budget" includes almost \$2 billion in new revenue and would provide a significant funding increase to both sectors as well as to state need-based financial aid.

"While the 'Investment Budget' puts colleges on a solid footing and invests in expanding Career and Technical programs, the 'Base Budget' funding level would be devastating to Oregon's Community colleges and the Oregonians we serve," said Cam Preus, Executive Director of the Oregon Community College Association. "Colleges would have no choice but to make deep program cuts along with double digit tuition increases."

### **"Base Budget"**

At the "Base Budget" level, community colleges would receive a 4.7 percent cut, bringing the Community College Support Fund (CCSF) from \$570 million (2017-19 biennium) down to \$543 million (2019-21 biennium).

Statewide, community colleges would have to raise tuition **17.5 percent** each year of the 2019-2021 biennium to bridge the gap in funding in the "base budget".

It also does not fund community college requests of \$70 million in new funding for Career and Technical Education Programs and \$70 million to expand student support services for first-generation and underrepresented students.

The "base budget" also eliminates the Oregon Promise Program after the first year of the biennium removing a successful onramp to post-secondary education used by thousands of high school and GED graduates annually.

### **"Investment Budget"**

The "Investment Budget" would increase the CCSF to \$646.7 million - the amount community colleges would need to maintain current programs and services and keep tuition increases to about 3.5 percent statewide each year of the biennium.

Community colleges would also receive an additional \$70 million to expand CTE programs doubling the number of CTE graduates each year statewide (an additional 7900 graduates per year).

The “Investment Budget” does not include the community college request for \$70 million in additional funding for student support services targeted at first-generation and underrepresented students.

The “Investment Budget” also adds \$121 million to the Oregon Opportunity Grant, nearly doubling funding for Oregon’s only statewide need-based financial aid program. The grants are critical to community college students who typically face the greatest financial barriers of those in any sector of higher education. The “Investment Budget” also fully funds the Oregon Promise program.

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