Expanding Higher Education Access and Success in Central Oregon:

Innovating for Current and Future Needs

A report to the State Board of Higher Education

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HEAT Charge

- Determine current and future higher education needs of Central Oregon
- Examine best options to meet needs
- Engage with education and civic groups to gather input and feedback on draft proposals
HEAT Process

- Convened diverse team from Central Oregon
- Developed long, mid- and short-term strategies to improve higher education access
  - Comprehensive plan, from K–12 connections through graduate education and research
- Met with education, civic and other groups from March–June 2010 for ideas and feedback
Recommendation: Long-Term

- Stand-alone 4-year university and stand-alone community college in 20-30 years (sooner if possible)

- Timing depends on state funding, enrollment demand, population growth

- Location: no recommendation from HEAT; market conditions will dictate

- Regional access greatly expanded through satellite learning center options

- By 2025, Central Oregon population expected to be about 273,000, and by 2040, expected to be about 332,000* (in 2010 = 204,000)

* Source: Office of Economic Analysis, Department of Administrative Services, State of Oregon
#1: University College: OSU-Cascades and COCC partner to provide a “4-year experience”

- A cohort model within COCC for dually enrolled OSU-Cascades students; common classes, learning community with both institutions’ faculty and staff; upper division and graduate programs through OSU-Cascades
  - Learning communities facilitate student orientation, success skills, retention, shorter time to degree, and more degrees
  - Market OSU-Cascades as a 4-year university at lower cost (first 2 years at COCC tuition rates), with residential and campus life options in partnership with COCC
- Shared facilities and services: align administrative/IT functions for better transitions for University College and all students, including one-stop advising, registering, billing, etc.
- New Instructional Facility @ OSU-Cascades to handle increased enrollment, University College cohorts, and new programs
Student chooses postsecondary education in Central Oregon

Student selects what option they want to follow; if not sure, start at COCC option and move forward from there

**COCC (Current)**
- Pursue certificate or short-term career technical programs (AAS)
- Take courses at satellite locations with COCC for lower division and OSU-Cascades for upper
- Pursue 2-year degree
- Applied baccalaureates as future option
- STOP OUT OPTIONS: STOP BUT RETURN LATER

**2+2 (Current)**
- Complete 2 years at COCC: Associate of Arts/Oregon Transfer or Associate of Science/Oregon Transfer
- Transfer to OSU-Cascades for junior and senior years to complete bachelor’s degree
- Take courses at satellite locations with COCC for lower division and OSU-Cascades for upper
- STOP OUT OPTIONS: STOP BUT RETURN LATER

**University College (Proposed)**
- Begin as 4-year experience student in learning cohort at OSU-Cascades University College & COCC
- COCC and OSU-Cascades collaborate academically and administratively to offer lower division classes; students pays COCC rates first 2 years; 30%+ less
- No transfer process for student; transparent movement through the 4-year experience and bachelor’s degree
- Residential options available in collaboration between COCC and OSU-Cascades
#2: “Hub and Spoke” model of delivery

- Extend access to targeted bachelor’s degrees and expand certificate programs to existing - and in future new - Central Oregon satellite “campuses” through COCC and OSU–Cascades
- Increase college participation, retention, and degree and certificate rates for rural Oregonians through the satellite model
  - Programs aligned with regional workforce and economic needs
  - Serves place-bound students and addresses low participation and degree attainment in rural areas
  - Builds a larger pool of skilled workers in Oregon’s rural areas
Recommendations: Short- & Mid-Term

- #3: Enhance 2+2 collaboration with COCC and OSU-Cascades, and create a student-focused, administratively efficient delivery structure

- Simplify program offerings by having OSU-Cascades be lead entity on campus, assuming University of Oregon’s current program offerings, faculty
  - Will increase efficiencies, improve seamlessness of transitions, simplify and clarify marketing and outreach, eliminate redundancy, etc.
  - Will ensure that current UO students complete their UO degrees, and implement plan for easy transition overall for students and faculty during this process (will take about 2 years starting in fall 2010)
  - UO faculty will be offered option to transition to OSU faculty; considering options and incentives

- Develop seamless, transparent transfer processes for students not dually enrolled; and determine and implement dual-institution joint services, possible co-location options, etc.; add residential options

- Option to work with other OUS or private institutions to offer specialty, niche or graduate programs that OSU unable to provide will remain
#4: Provide educational pathways, opportunities in region between K–12 and postsecondary education

- Create and foster a college-going culture
  - Start early – middle school or earlier
  - Expand pre-college programs, such as ASPIRE, GEAR-UP, campus- and community-based
  - Expand opportunities to gain college credit in high school with AP, other options; and align curricula
  - Expand bridge programs for students needing extra help
  - Involve parents
  - Provide professional development for teachers and staff
#5: Strengthen regional economy by aligning workforce and community needs with postsecondary education programs

- Align undergraduate and graduate academic programs with current and anticipated economic, workforce, and K–12 needs
  - Partner with COCC to develop 4–year degrees at the new Technology Education Center in Redmond (and later, at future satellite sites)
- Expand undergraduate and graduate research opportunities aligned with workforce and industry needs
- Explore incubator or limited signature research at OSU–Cascades or alternative location
Enriching OSU–Cascades and COCC partnership, expanding program options, and simplifying student transitions will expand higher education access, retention and success in Central Oregon.

OSU–Cascades is poised to help the state handle increased enrollment demand over next 10–20 years.

Marketing and branding an important component in Oregon “seeing” and supporting its hidden jewel.

OSU–Cascades is critical to Central Oregon’s success: majority place-bound students’ and region’s economic future reliant on a strong community college/university partnership.
Questions?

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