



January 23, 2006

**Joint Boards  
Articulation Commission**  
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## MEMORANDUM

To: General Education Workshop Participants  
Student Success and Retention Conference

From: Ed Watson, Chair  
Joint Boards Articulation Commission

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Dear Workshop Participant:

On behalf of the Joint Boards Articulation Commission (JBAC), I want to welcome you to the 2006 Student Success and Retention Conference, a combination of two popular statewide conferences: the Student Success Conference and the Articulation and Transfer Conference. This year's conference theme, "One System for Oregon Students" expresses JBAC's primary purpose – to promote effective transfer and articulation for undergraduate students. Since its establishment in 1992 by the Board of Education and The Board of Higher Education, JBAC has encouraged collaboration among the postsecondary sectors to smooth transfer, particularly for Oregon community college students who transition to an Oregon University System campus. A principal focus of JBAC attention has been the General Education that is included in transferable Associate's degrees, the AA/OT and the AS/OT-Business.

This year's conference features a full-day workshop that will begin the development of an outcomes-based framework for transferable General Education courses. Under the leadership of JBAC, this initiative responds specifically to the directive for such a framework in Senate Bill 342, which became law last spring. This legislative prompt creates the potential for statewide faculty input into the General Education we offer to transfer students. The opportunity for direct communication among faculty from different institutions is new and powerful, and we anticipate significant results. The attached document, "*Toward Improving General Education that is Transferable within Oregon*", is JBAC's effort to explain the purpose and future direction of the initiative. The work will require clear thinking and collegiality, and that is why we have asked you to contribute.

I am grateful for your leadership in taking on this challenging task. The work may not be easy, but it is important and I expect that you will find it satisfying. If you have any concerns or questions regarding the work of JBAC, or the purpose of this meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me or a JBAC member. Enjoy the conference!

