

Diversity Building Activities

Introduction:

The Oregon Board of Higher Education at the behest of Governor Kulongoski has initiated four new major policy initiatives. These initiatives form the cornerstones of the Governor's vision for postsecondary education. They are: Access to College, Affordability, Economic Development, and budgetary and administrative streamlining and effectiveness. The primary goals of the initiatives are to increase the number of Oregonians who receive a college education and reversal of the current trend of disinvestment in postsecondary education by the state.

Specific Policy areas:

The Board Working Group Excellence in Delivery and Productivity (commonly referred to as More/Better/Faster) has identified seven initial policy areas that will be addressed in the 2005-07 biennium. The OUS Board in its April 2004 Board meeting approved these.

1. Course availability
2. On-line courses
3. Accelerated high school courses
4. Undergraduate student retention
5. Common core of fully transferable lower division general education courses
6. Common core of fully transferable courses leading into a major
7. Framework for successful dual enrollment agreements

Commitment to diversity

In order to meet the Governor's and the Board's priority of increasing access to college focused and sustained attention must be directed at ensuring that more students from traditionally underrepresented groups in Oregon attend and complete their college education. These groups include low-income, minorities, first-in-family to attend college, and other populations that have not traditionally enrolled in college. There is no question that this priority of inclusivity must be a fundamental and measurable goal in all actions.

Course Availability

The courses most likely to have excess demand are also the courses that often serve as gatekeepers. To the degree that is possible as these lower-division courses are expanded outreach efforts to inform all communities must occur so that there is equitable access. Continued review of students who enroll in new courses will include analysis of demographic variables including, where available, family income.

