WICHE LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:
INTEGRATING FEDERAL BENEFITS TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES

Mark Mitsui, Portland Community College President
Cam Preus, Executive Director, Oregon Community College Association, WICHE Commissioner
Community College Students: A Primer

• Working
• Adults
• First Generation
• Parents
• Low Income
• Diverse
### HOUSING AND FOOD INSECURITY

#### GAO Study (2019):

- **2 million** college students are likely **eligible for SNAP, but not accessing the benefits**

- **7.3 million** college students are **at risk for food insecurity** (likely many more)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Community Colleges</th>
<th>4-year Colleges and Universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Insecurity</td>
<td>42-56%</td>
<td>36-41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Insecurity</td>
<td>46-60%</td>
<td>36-48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homelessness</td>
<td>12-18%</td>
<td>9-14%</td>
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</tbody>
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Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab’s presentation, Pathways to Opportunity Spring Summit May 2, 2019
Unmet need is a significant barrier to student enrollment and completion, and the lack of public policies to address it poses a significant challenge to improving access and advancing equity within postsecondary education.¹

¹ Walizer, Lauren. CLASP, When Financial Aids Falls Short, December 2018
Many College Students Are Too Poor to Eat
But no one can agree on just how many. Now lawmakers are introducing a bill to change that.

Harris Introduces BASIC Act to Help College Students Afford Basic Needs

Senator Warren and Representative Lawson Introduce the College Student Hunger Act of 2019 to Address Hunger on College Campuses

Schiff Introduces Food for Thought Act to Address Food Insecurity on Community College Campuses
Legislation Would Provide Free Meals to Students in Need
SKILLS GAP

Job Openings by Skill Level, Oregon, 2014-2024

- High-Skill: 30%
- Middle-Skill: 46%
- Low-Skill: 23%

Source: NSC analysis of long-term occupational projections from state labor/employment agency.

Jobs and Workers by Skill Level, Oregon, 2015

- High-Skill Jobs: 50%
- High-Skill Workers: 40%
- Middle-Skill Jobs: 30%
- Middle-Skill Workers: 10%
- Low-Skill Jobs: 0%
- Low-Skill Workers: 0%

OREGON IS LEADING THE NATION

“OREGON IS THE FIRST STATE TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT INSTRUCTS STATE AGENCIES AND COLLEGES TO BETTER ALIGN PUBLIC BENEFITS TO SUPPORT POSTSECONDARY ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH LOW INCOMES…”

New CLASP report, by leading researcher, Amy Ellen Duke-Benfield, *Leveraging Public Benefits to Improve States’ Postsecondary Access and Completion*
Pathways to Opportunity is a statewide initiative closing opportunity gaps and increasing economic mobility by expanding the federal, state, and local resources available to low-income students so more individuals can attend and complete college.
VALUES AND BUDGET ALIGN = RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- Community College Consortia seen as national leader and model; 2nd largest provider in state, after OED

- FFY 20 budget over 8 million with all 17 cc’s—putting ahead of revenue projections that show program growing to $13.44 million in 2 biennium with continued baseline investment and reinvestment

- Sustained baseline investment could bring in $39 million in federal funding to all 17 of Oregon’s community colleges between FY 19 and FY25
## BENEFITS CLOSE UNMET NEEDS FOR STUDENTS

### COA Components

- 48% Room/board
- 27% Tuition/fees
- 8% Personal exp.
- 8% Books/supplies
- 8% Transportation

### BENEFIT (BASED ON HH OF 1) | FUNDING FOR YEAR: BENEFITS TO MEET NEEDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNAP</td>
<td>$2,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEP: Gap funding tuition/fees one term, books, transportation ongoing</td>
<td>$3,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EITC (average)</td>
<td>$2,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL Benefits:</td>
<td>$8,242</td>
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Holistic approach to serving students, that addresses both academic and non-academic needs to increase college access, retention, and completion.

Oregon CC Student Cost of Attendance, HECC Snapshot, 2017-2018
Pathways to Opportunity: Community Partners Summit

May 22, 2019 ~ 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Center for Meeting and Learning, Building 19 @ Lane Community College
FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

• Continuing national recognition and leadership position for Oregon—Potential for policy and practice to transform opportunities in state has only begun

• Building Pathways to Opportunity Coalition, with multiple strategies to fund and propel statewide work

• Significant expansion of SNAP Student Eligibility

• All 17 community colleges part of STEP Consortia

• Systemic approach to braiding together holistic services and resources for students

• Meeting needs of students, community, and employers
Closing opportunity gaps is a social justice and economic development imperative for Oregon.

Continued Pathways to Opportunity funding for:
• Statewide and local coordination, including pilot implementation and expansion at each college
• Continuation of coalition/community of practice to learn from national and state best practices
• Deepening of state and local partnerships that are changing policy and practice to close opportunity gaps for students
• Positioning of colleges for legislative short/long session—funding advocacy via coalition
• Leveraging national opportunities (National Skills Coalition)
QUESTIONS?