

2018 PUBLIC AGENDA

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education



OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Improving our future by degrees

The Purpose of the Public Agenda

The purpose of the public agenda is to provide a better understanding of the critical policy issues, goals and objectives that shape the direction of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. It is based on the needs of the state as identified through ongoing strategic planning, and it describes the major initiatives that are in place to achieve the policy objectives.

Key Policy Goals & Objectives

Goals

- Increase the number of college graduates.
- Enhance access and improve the quality of public higher education for all Oklahomans.
- Better prepare students to meet the challenges of a global economy.

Objectives

- Implement Complete College America initiatives to increase the number of degrees and certificates earned in Oklahoma by 67 percent by 2023.
- Enhance capacity to successfully enroll, retain and graduate students.
- Increase systemwide efficiencies and cost savings.
- Strengthen financial support for Oklahoma college students.
- Improve instructional quality.
- Utilize performance funding to enhance student success and academic quality.
- Broaden economic development activities.
- Advance access to and quality of technologies to support systemwide programs and services.

Key Initiatives

Task Force on the Future of Higher Education

The Task Force on the Future of Higher Education is charged to consider ways to improve degree completion and increase productivity by focusing on modernization, efficiencies and innovation. The task force is examining every aspect of system operations, including academic models, online education, structure, fiscal services and operational efficiencies, workforce development, and information technology to ensure they are properly aligned and defined to best serve our students and state.

Complete College America

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have identified degree completion as their top priority. Oklahoma has been named the national model for Complete College America (CCA), with a plan focused on promoting college readiness, transforming remediation, strengthening pathways to certificates and degrees, expanding adult degree completion efforts, and rewarding performance and completion. Oklahoma's CCA goal is to increase the number of degrees and certificates earned each year in our state by 67 percent by 2023.

Oklahoma's Promise

Oklahoma's Promise is recognized by many as America's best college access program and is considered a model that combines emphases on academic preparation and financial support for college. In FY 2017, 17,744 students received Oklahoma's Promise scholarships totaling \$68 million.

Concurrent Enrollment

The concurrent enrollment program allows outstanding juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. In the last academic year, there were nearly 12,000 students enrolled in concurrent courses, generating more than 102,000 credit hours.

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OKcollegestart.org

The state's web-based college planning portal for students, parents, adult learners and educators empowers students to create individual portfolios, explore career options and campuses, prepare for the ACT and SAT exams, and apply online for Oklahoma's Promise, among other features. Site content is available in multiple languages, and a companion site allows educators to develop system-defined Individual Career Academic Plans (ICAP) and send and receive electronic transcripts.

Mathematics Success Initiative

Oklahoma's CCA agenda includes increasing freshman-to-sophomore retention and graduation rates and enhancing the efficacy and efficiency of remediation and freshman gateway courses. Lack of success in mathematics was identified as a significant barrier. The Mathematics Success Group has developed a strategic plan to improve mathematics preparation of students entering college, reform mathematics remediation to be more effective, and strengthen mathematics preparation for all majors. The initiative involves all public institutions and has received recognition and support from national organizations.

GEAR UP

Oklahoma GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), the fourth consecutive federally funded grant program administered by the State Regents, is designed to prepare middle and high school students for college success through direct student support services, including college campus tours, ACT preparation and testing, college exploration and preparation courses, leadership/STEM summer academies, one-on-one guidance from education specialists, and college access and financial aid information and assistance.

Reach Higher – FlexFinish

Eight of Oklahoma's public regional universities and 14 public community colleges and technical branches offer flexible class options and enrollment periods through Reach Higher, the state system adult degree completion program, to meet the needs of working adults. With a Reach Higher associate or bachelor's degree, students receive the leadership training, communications skills and business knowledge they need to get ahead.

Reach Higher – DirectComplete

This developing program, funded by a grant from the Lumina Foundation, will invite all 25 public institutions to participate in offering comprehensive services and support to adult students returning to pursue degree programs that lead to employment in Oklahoma's critical occupations, as determined by Oklahoma Works, Oklahoma's workforce development agency.

OneNet

OneNet operates Oklahoma's most advanced technology network to provide the infrastructure to support high-speed broadband services at an equitable rate. OneNet provides the technology and connectivity necessary to meet the mission-critical needs of Oklahoma's colleges and universities; K-12 and career technology schools; public libraries; local, tribal, state and federal governments; health care providers; nonprofit organizations; and programs engaged in research.

Online Education Task Force

The State Regents convened the Online Education Task Force in 2012 to develop a coordinated, systemwide approach to online learning as a component of Oklahoma higher education. The primary areas of focus are to eliminate barriers to online education and encourage educational innovation while maintaining academic rigor across multiple learning platforms. Areas of discussion include professional development for faculty teaching online to enhance quality instruction, and open educational resources to reduce costs for students.

Campus Safety and Security Task Force

The State Regents established the Campus Safety & Security Task Force to support best practices for the ongoing safety of students, faculty, administrators and visitors at higher education and technology center campuses. Task Force members represent public and private institutions, technology centers, and key state agencies, including the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security.

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