



To: Ben Cannon, Executive Director
Higher Education Coordinating Commission

From: Dana Richardson, Deputy Director, Policy & Legislative Affairs
Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Date: June 4, 2014

RE: Recommendation to Implement House Bill 4019 (2014)

House Bill 4019 (2014) directed the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to annually identify a federal or national entity that best provides information about the affordability and value of institutions of higher education in Oregon. Institutions of higher education in Oregon will provide information to access the website that is identified.

I recommend that we identify the College Affordability and Transparency Center, also known as the College Scorecard, website which can be found at www.collegecost.ed.gov.

Testimony on House Bill 4019 indicated that at least two websites would accomplish the Legislature's goal of providing information about institutional affordability and value. Those sites were the College Scorecard, maintained by the U.S. Department of Education, and the College Navigator, maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics.

Lori Ellis, the ASPIRE and Outreach Administrator for the Oregon Student Access Commission, asked ASPIRE counselors to evaluate those sites as well as recommend sites that they use and have been proven to be helpful tools in working with prospective students.

The College Scorecard was most highly recommended. Although it includes information only on institutions that receive federal aid, it was identified as easy to use and it allows prospective students to see what their financial aid package would be. The homepage of the College Scorecard also provides links to the College Navigator as well as four other resource sites that can be used by students in making informed decisions.