

Did you know...?

45% of all bachelor's degrees are now awarded to students who have transferred from a community college.

(Source: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, 2012)

Men of Color Webinar

The Minority Male Community College Collaborative (M2C3) at San Diego State University will be hosting a **free** virtual webinar titled, "Men of Color in the Community College: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities" on April 18th 2014 from 10:00am to 11:00am Pacific Time. This session is designed for community college administrators, faculty, staff, and counselors interested in learning more about the trends and issues relevant to men of color in the community college.

For more information or to register, visit: <http://interwork.sdsu.edu/sp/m2c3/2014/03/05/freewebinar/>

New Online GI Bill Comparison Tool Available

The Department of Veterans Affairs launched in February an online [GI Bill® Comparison Tool](#) to make it easier for Veterans, service members and dependents to calculate their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and learn more about VA's approved colleges, universities and other education and training programs across the country. This tool also includes Oregon JATC's with OJT / Apprenticeship information.

Read the official press release: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2517>

Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) news

On March 11 the HECC adopted a near-final version of a strategic plan and action items for 2014-15. Highlights include the ongoing work to develop a proposal for improving access and affordability within higher education. In the short term, the HECC is engaging partners in efforts to increase in 2014 the number of eligible Oregonians who apply for and receive the federal Pell Grant. For 2015, the commission is weighing possibilities such as "Pay It Forward," free community college, and redesign of the state's need-based Oregon Opportunity Grant.

"Gap Year" programs gain traction in U.S.

Some U.S. universities are offering financial aid to need-based applicants who take a year off after high school to travel and volunteer before committing to college. Read the complete *Portland Press Herald* article: http://www.pressherald.com/news/Tufts_offers_to_pay_students_to_take_year_off.html

CTE-focused dual enrollment leads to improved outcomes

The Education Commission of the States released a [report](#) on dual enrollment for career and technical education (CTE), finding that CTE dual enrollment ultimately led to improved outcomes. Dual enrollment, which allows high school students to earn college credit while still in high school by taking college level courses, was seen as key to reaching otherwise underserved populations. CTE dual enrollment students were more likely to graduate from high school, seek a bachelor's degree, and enroll in a full-time postsecondary program than other dual enrollment students. The report makes recommendations for state actions to support CTE-focused dual enrollment programs, including making the programs free, ensuring courses lead to industry certification, and ensuring course credits transfer to other academic programs. *(Excerpted from NGA's "Front and Center")*

The Mission of the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development is to contribute leadership and resources to increase the skills, knowledge and career opportunities of Oregonians.

<http://www.oregon.gov/CCWD/> 503-378-8648
