



Oregon Community College Association
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MEMORANDUM

To: OCCA Board Representatives
From: Andrea Henderson
Date: November 7, 2017
Re: November Key Takeaways from the Conference for Local Board Discussion

At the 2017 OCCA Conference we heard from several great national speakers. Daniel Greenstein, the director of postsecondary success at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, discussed how our current system of postsecondary education perpetuates the status quo. He laid out several steps board members could take, including knowing their data, setting clear goals, particularly around equity, and supporting the president in taking risks to improve the outcomes.

Kent Phillippe from the American Association of Community Colleges spoke to national trends in student enrollment and data. He also shared how colleges can use the Volunteer Framework of Accountability as a key data source.

Sara Goldrick Rab, founder of the Wisconsin HOPE Lab and author of the book, *Paying the Price: College Costs, Financial Aid, and the Betrayal of the American Dream*, discussed food and housing insecurity among community college students. She shared a powerful video chronicling the challenges of a homeless single mother struggling through college while "couch surfing". With startling statistics on the number of community college students who are housing and food insecure, she issued a call-to-action to do better for our students.

We also heard from Gloria Crisp, a professor at Oregon State University, who shared that underserved students, including low-income and students of color, have inequitable outcomes in nearly all academic measures. Based on her research, she advocated for using an equity-focused mindset that uses research-based practices to guide our work to increase student outcomes.

Possible questions you might consider as a board:

- o What does the data show at my college?
- o What role should the board play to address inequity, housing and food insecurity?
- o What are the student stories at my college?
- o What might we do collectively as 17 colleges to improve student outcomes?
- o What do we need from the state to better address these issues?