



## **10 Reasons Oregon Needs Private Colleges**

**T**he Oregon Independent Colleges Association's 20 member institutions have a long history of meeting the needs of the state and its residents, starting before the state itself was founded. Here's a quick list of how private higher education is helping Oregon today.

### ***Reason 1: Enabling Student Success***

- 55 percent of OICA bachelor's degree-seeking students graduate within four years and 66 percent graduate within six years – the highest rates in the state.
- Last year Oregon's private college students earned 4,978 bachelor degrees (about 28 percent of all baccalaureate degrees in the state) and 2,786 graduate degrees (about 38 percent.)

### ***Reason 2: Meeting Science and Technology Demand***

- In total, Oregon's private colleges award:
  - 26 percent of all biological and biomedical science degrees.
  - 27 percent of all physical science degrees.
  - 36 percent of all health profession degrees.
  - 41 percent of all computer and information science degrees.

### ***Reason 3: Educating Andrea, Antonio and Amun***

- Oregon's private colleges enrolled more than 41,000 students in fall 2009.
  - One in six college students in Oregon attends one of these institutions.
  - One in seven private college students is a student of color.
  - Minority student enrollment at these institutions has grown 229 percent since 1990 – the fastest growth rate in the state.

### ***Reason 4: Attracting Brain Power***

- As an importer of undergraduate students, we attract a growing number of out-of-state freshmen students (2,799 in 2008).
- Half of our 200,000 living alumni, although part of a highly mobile society, reside in Oregon, adding to the state's skilled workforce and tax base.

### ***Reason 5: Connecting Oregon and the World***

- More than 3,800 students from Oregon study abroad each year. One third of those students do so through programs at Oregon's private colleges.
- More than 1,000 international students study at our institutions.

### ***Reason 6: Giving Back to Local Communities***

- More than 20,000 Oregon private college students annually contribute to their communities over 500,000 free hours of volunteer service, internship, practica and student teaching.
- Private colleges generate:
  - 43 percent of all professionals prepared for our schools (including 83 percent of all elementary ed. degrees and 81 percent of all secondary ed. degrees).
  - 35 percent of all visual and performing arts degrees.
  - 36 percent of all health profession degrees.
- Hundreds of cultural and athletic events, as well as libraries, grounds and meeting facilities, are annually available to the public at little or no charge.
- Thousands of Oregon's private college faculty and staff participate as volunteers, coaches, advocates and professional resources in our communities.

### ***Reason 7: Challenging Economic Disparities***

- 24 percent of private college students come from families with incomes less than \$40,000 – the same proportion as at the state's public universities.
- Oregon Opportunity Grant recipients at Oregon's private colleges, who begin college financially disadvantaged compared to their peers, achieve similar income and employment levels after graduation.

### ***Reason 8: Investing in Oregon and Oregonians***

- Oregon's private colleges contributed more than \$3.1 billion to Oregon's economy through institutional and student spending in 2009-2010. This generates business for property owners, restaurants, retailers, automotive dealers, construction companies, hotels and virtually every type of business enterprise in the state.
  - Out-of-state students, alone, inject 440 million fresh dollars into the Oregon economy every year.
  - Payroll expenditures at Oregon's private colleges exceeded \$500 million in fiscal year 2009, generating about \$45 million in state income tax receipts.
- OICA institutions provided more than \$242 million in student scholarships and grants in 2009 – seven times more than all government grant programs combined.

### ***Reason 9: Providing Jobs***

- In addition to increasing the level of business activity, Oregon's private colleges provide jobs for more than 7,000 faculty and staff. We also provide work-study or employment for more than 4,500 students.
- In addition, the institutions and their employees, students and visitors generate economic activity which creates thousands of "spin-off" jobs in other sectors of Oregon's economy.

### ***Reason 10: Saving Taxpayers Money***

- Oregon's private colleges save taxpayers more than \$200 million each year in institutional subsidies that would otherwise be required to enroll an equivalent number of students in public colleges and universities.
- The average state taxpayer cost for each degree earned at a private college is less than 1/35th of the public cost for a degree from a public college or university. Fully utilizing private college capacity should be a key public fiscal policy.

