

# CAREERS

## Briefs cont'd from pg 7

(BSN) degree program and the new ABSN program. Concordia graduates pass the national licensure exam at a rate of 91.67 percent, well above the national average pass rate of 83.7 percent, and higher than any other private university in Oregon.

Oregon is the fourth highest paying state for registered nurses, with an average salary for BSN and ABSN-educated RNs of \$83,800, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. According to recent labor trend reports, health care is leading the job growth and, within the sector, nurses are in highest demand.

According to the Oregon Employment Department, Oregon is the eighth fastest expanding job market in the nation and health care leads the way. Portland's health care sector is strong and growing, with the demand for nurses higher than ever, in part due to the rapidly aging baby boomer population, as well as recently expanded access to care under health care reform. According to recent labor trend reports, health care is leading the growth and, within the sector, nurses are in highest demand.

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### AG Rosenblum's Student Debt Bill Passes out of Oregon House, Moves to Governor's Desk

The Oregon House today passed the Attorney General's bill designed to help Oregon's students and their families better understand their education



PHOTO COURTESY OF STATE OF OREGON

The Oregon House has passed Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum's bill designed to help Oregon's students better understand student debt.

educational loan will annually receive an estimate of the total amount of federal loans the student has taken out, and the total potential payoff amount over the life of the loan. Students will also receive an estimated monthly payment applicable after graduation.

In 2015, roughly 63 percent of students graduating from Oregon's colleges and universities had education related debt, averaging \$26,000.

Similar laws passed in other states have had promising results. Indiana University saw a roughly 16 percent reduction in student borrowing, which accounted for \$44 million in debt savings, when they started sending annual student debt letters during the 2012-2013 academic year. Since then, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Washington have passed similar legislation.

related debt obligations. The proposed legislation, Senate Bill 253, would require Oregon colleges and universities to send students annual, easy-to-understand letters explaining the scope of their federal educational debt. The bill already passed the Senate unanimously and will now move to the Governor's desk.

Under the proposed legislation, every student who receives a federal

### Unemployment Rates Hit Record Lows in 3 States

WASHINGTON (AP) — Solid hiring nationwide led unemployment rates to touch record lows in three U.S. states last month.

Unemployment rates declined in 10 states in April, increased in one — Massachusetts — and held relatively stable in the other 39, the Labor Department said Friday. A significant number of the job gains occurred in nine states, led by Texas, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Indiana was the only state to see a significant decrease in jobs last month.

Arkansas, Colorado and Oregon reported the lowest unemployment rates since 1976. Colorado's rate, at 2.3 percent, was the nation's lowest.

Those states' jobless rates fell because more residents found work. In some cases, the rate falls when those out of work stop looking and are no longer counted as unemployed.

All told, 19 states had unemployment rates lower than the national average of 4.4 percent. Hawaii, New Hampshire, North Dakota and South Dakota each had jobless rates below 3 percent. The highest unemployment rate was New Mexico at 6.7 percent, while Alaska had the second highest at 6.6 percent.

Nevada, Hawaii and North Dakota enjoyed the stronger percentage job gains last month, while Indiana experienced a loss of 11,300 jobs, or a decline of 0.4 percent. Across the country, employers added 211,000 jobs in March.

Hiring has averaged 174,000 jobs in the past three months, close to last year's pace. The unemployment rate has tumbled to 4.4 percent from 4.8 percent in January.

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