

OTHER VIEWS

Is community college funding broken?

State officials are wondering if the funding formula for Oregon's community colleges, such as Central Oregon Community College, is broken. They are looking at changing it.

Oregon's formula doesn't consider student demographics, program costs or efficacy. It doesn't distribute money based on student access and completion or have a focus on minorities.

Instead, Oregon's funding formula sends out a base amount plus enrollment, based on the number of full-time equivalent students.

This fund, the community college support fund, isn't the only source of state money for community colleges. But it is the one the state is looking at changing and that could mean changes for Central Oregon Community College.

We don't know what the new formula will be. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission, or HECC, is just setting up a process for how the formula will be reevaluated. What is HECC? The commission is a 14-member group of volunteers appointed by the governor and approved by the state Senate. It basically exists to develop a plan for getting to the state's postsecondary education goals.

The new look at the formula is because there's concern the formula doesn't line up with those goals. For instance, HECC adopted an "equity lens" policy. It looks at what it does through race and ethnicity. It wants to reallocate resources to end disparities in gaps and achievement through reallocat-

ing resources.

HECC plans to redesign the formula "to allow for the distribution of state funding in support of student access and completion, with a focus on underrepresented populations, and should apply objectively to all institutions without regard to winners and losers."

Doing that means coming to terms with some difficult questions. How do you define student success? What are equitable outcomes? Should costs of training for high-demand and high-reward careers be a factor? How should the state weigh supporting students whose goal is to transfer out of community college into a four-year program?

The plan is to set up an advisory group to recommend to HECC how the formula will be changed. The institutions themselves do get a voice on the proposed workgroup. The Oregon Student Association gets a voice. Faculty get a voice. There will be a business representative. The Oregon Community College Association also gets a seat at the table.

Where is your voice in the discussion? Well, HECC meetings are open to the public and the commission accepts public comment. We are just guessing, of course, but we imagine most of the input on the decision of revising the funding formula will come from the people that get the money, not the general public.

Editor's note: This editorial originally appeared in the Bend Bulletin.



OTHER VIEWS

New era of family policy in Oregon

We are at a moment in the nation — and in Oregon — when a paradigm shift is in reach to update ineffective, top-down systems to be more responsive, effective, and equitable for all families. Today, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides unprecedented resources to improve the lives of families who are still reeling from COVID-19 and its economic impact as well as longstanding inequities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. And now Congress is debating a \$3.5 trillion budget resolution which, if passed, will increase these resources even more.

Luckily, there is a bold, pragmatic and proven strategy already in place that can serve as a model: the two generation (2Gen) approach.

For the past 10 years, Ascend at the Aspen Institute has embraced the 2Gen approach to accelerate family prosperity. As illustrated in a recently released report, "The State of the Field: Two-Generation Approaches to Family Well-Being," the 2Gen mindset can drive forward-thinking, actionable policies that advance economic mobility for all families. It's a modern approach to governance that includes and invests in the potential of all people across race, gender, ability, income and geography. 2Gen fosters human development and human potential, and if done well, will not only allow us to live up to our highest values, but will also yield tangible, pragmatic benefits. More importantly, it provides a proven blueprint for moving forward.

The 2Gen approach defines well-being holistically, just as parents themselves define it. As a mom told us, "Well-being is happy, healthy and safe and family well-being is having a balanced life." 2Gen strategies are shaped by parents' voices and lived experiences and meaningfully work with families in five key areas: phys-



Anne Mosle



Marjorie Sims

ical and mental health; early development, learning, and care; postsecondary and employment pathways; economic assets; and social capital. Advancing racial and gender equity is central to the 2Gen approach.

Over the past decade, the 2Gen approach has shown that it is both transformative and practical. 2Gen leaders and practitioners have wrestled conceptually with what it means to place racial and gender equity at the core of our work and then applied those big ideas with purpose in pragmatic, tangible ways, from changes to intake forms to increase access to services to shifts in program titles and imagery to attract and welcome more fathers to parenting programs.

In the process, across all levels of government and the public and non-profit sectors, 2Gen leaders have listened and learned a lot about how to support and engage families in ways that foster and unleash their potential for health, wealth, and well-being.

The modern, equity-centered 2Gen approach is being explored, implemented, and advanced by the Ascend National Network of over 440 partners across the country, including Friends of the Children, Home Forward, Multnomah County – Multnomah Idea Lab, and National Crittenton, here in Oregon.

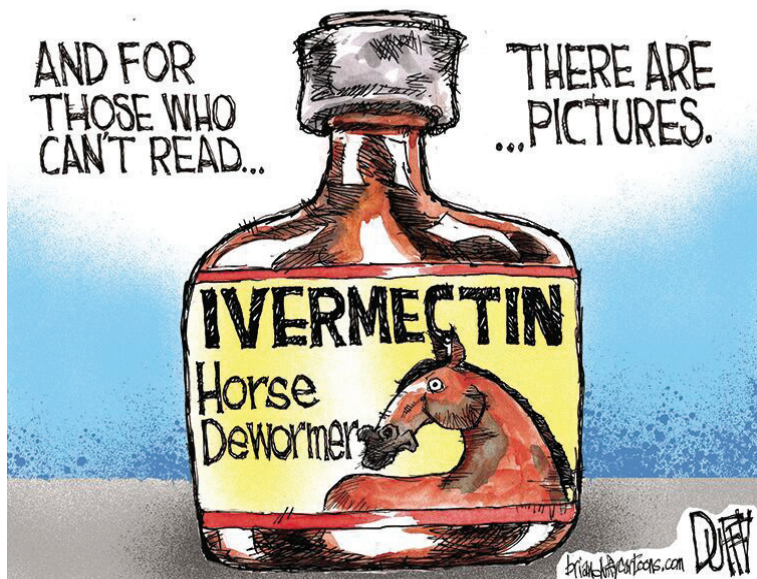
To date, 12 states, including Oregon, have implemented 2Gen approaches to align and coordinate their agencies and strengthen programmatic supports for families, including linking child care and early learning programs to work force

development and economic pathways, adopting new models of home visiting, and creating effective parent and child supports as states seek more effective and equitable outcomes for children and families. The 2Gen approach has provided state agencies with a pragmatic and purpose-driven way to drive equity and well-being by shifting and aligning the gears of early childhood, K-12 education, post-secondary success, health and mental health, economic assets, and social capital.

State momentum is having three major effects. First, many states are reviewing and aligning child- and adult-serving programs to put families at the center. A 2Gen analysis identifies ineffective practices that force families to navigate fragmented systems, inconsistent eligibility rules, or contradictory expectations, all of which set up barriers to good outcomes. Second, 2Gen has fostered new family-centered collaborations across public agencies to produce better child, parent, caregiver, and family outcomes. Third, 2Gen has catalyzed new community- and county-level partnerships.

It's time to place family well-being at the center of our national agenda. With new resources from ARP and possible additional investments from the budget resolution, we can pursue opportunities on what is actually working and open up a better way of serving parents and children together. As one mom told us about navigating the pandemic, "If we make it out of this, we will be unstoppable." As Oregon (and America) rebuilds, let's make sure parents and families will have the tools and conditions they need and deserve to be unstoppable.

Anne Mosle is vice president of the Aspen Institute and executive director of Ascend at the Aspen Institute. Marjorie Sims is managing director of Ascend at the Aspen Institute.



WHERE TO WRITE

- GRANT COUNTY**
- Grant County Courthouse** — 201 S. Humbolt St., Suite 280, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0059. Fax: 541-575-2248.
- Canyon City** — P.O. Box 276, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0509. Fax: 541-575-0515. Email: tocc1862@centurylink.net.
- Dayville** — P.O. Box 321, Dayville 97825. Phone: 541-987-2188. Fax: 541-987-2187. Email: dville@ortelco.net
- John Day** — 450 E. Main St, John Day, 97845. Phone: 541-575-0028. Fax: 541-575-1721. Email: cityjd@centurytel.net.
- Long Creek** — P.O. Box 489, Long Creek 97856. Phone: 541-421-3601. Fax: 541-421-3075. Email: info@cityoflongcreek.com.
- Monument** — P.O. Box 426, Monument 97864. Phone and fax: 541-934-2025. Email: cityofmonument@centurytel.net.
- Mt. Vernon** — P.O. Box 647, Mt. Vernon 97865. Phone: 541-932-4688. Fax: 541-932-4222. Email: cmtv@ortelco.net.
- Prairie City** — P.O. Box 370, Prairie City 97869. Phone: 541-820-3605. Fax: 820-3566. Email: pchall@ortelco.net.
- Seneca** — P.O. Box 208, Seneca 97873. Phone and fax: 541-542-2161. Email: senecaoregon@gmail.com.
- SALEM**
- Gov. Kate Brown, D** — 254 State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-378-3111. Fax: 503-378-6827. Website: governor.state.or.us/governor.html.
- Oregon Legislature** — State Capitol, Salem, 97310. Phone: 503-986-1180. Website: leg.state.or.us (includes Oregon Constitution and Oregon Revised Statutes).

Adventures in wildlife photography

My extensive collection of nature-themed photographs I've taken includes wildlife from Grant County to the South Pacific, Scandinavia, and Eastern Europe. Unfortunately, the wildlife photographs I take mainly show only furry tails, hind legs, few feathers, and the scrub trees where some wildlife hid before they galloped or flew away.

My photography skills lack a timely response when my mind comes up with creative compositions. I do label the results. For instance, on a photo of an enormous lilac bush, I noted that about 50 quail clustered under the branches two minutes before — the length of time to locate the camera.

In China, I became engrossed in photographing a Chinese blue willow-decorated bowl filled with noodles and missed a column of cormorants at the river. While stopped at the side of the road on my way to Alaska, I rushed to close the vehicle's door as a bear snorted past. He slobbered on our lost camera lens cap, only his rump visible. We gifted him the lens cap.

My photography equipment, periodically updated, still provides a challenge. I've been seconds from

a stunning photo when I realized: a phone camera needs a charge, the small camera has dead batteries, large camera — I need time to change the lens and screw on a tripod to reduce camera shake, or the needed camera is still sitting on the kitchen table and I'm 40 miles from home.

One of my most amazing scenes — a field with a rough count of about 100 pronghorns. A young pronghorn close to the road briefly locked eyes with me. In the late golden hour of light, they exhibited the delicate beauty of Dresden china. I didn't take one photograph.

And for the same reason, I didn't get a single snapshot of the wildlife seen recently while driving around the county: bull elk with six females, coyote loping across the field, wild turkeys, quail, eagle, grazing deer.

The reason for missing prime photo shots: NPTPO, No Place To Pull Over.

I propose some scenic and safe pull-off photographic sites. Roadside signs would be helpful. "Caution. Photographers next two miles."

To improve my photography skills, I signed up for a class. After several weeks, I reached a milestone ... at the bottom of the class.

"Be honest," I said to a friend. "Admit that I'm the worst photographer in the class."

"Yes, you are," she agreed.

The turnaround in my photography came one afternoon when I spotted horses in a field — powerful horses that stood still, never tossing a head, swishing a tail, or racing off. It looked as though carousel horses had galloped off their circled path onto a pasture, their poles still attached like a Mary Poppins event. I surmised the carousel was being moved, and the horses stuck upright awaiting transport.

During the golden hour of light, I photographed the lead stallion. The photography instructor helped me enlarge and print the image in black and white. From the bottom of the class, I zoomed to the top ... at least for one day.

I continue to take photographs. I've expanded the wildlife theme to include domestic cats and children at play.

Jean Ann Moultrie is a Grant County writer. Her goal: motivate those of us with a box or trunk full of photos of ancestors with no identifying names to seek out those who might know, and label them, adding where and about when if known.

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Email: www.MyEagleNews.com John Day, Oregon
Phone: 541-575-0710

MEMBER OREGON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

EDITOR	Bennett Hall, bhall@bmeagle.com
REPORTER	Steven Mitchell, steven@bmeagle.com
SPORTS	sports@bmeagle.com
MULTIMEDIA	Alex Wittwer, awittwer@eomediagroup.com
MARKETING REP	Kim Kell, ads@bmeagle.com
OFFICE ASSISTANT	Alixandra Hand, office@bmeagle.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parents need timely info on outbreaks

To the Editor:

The Eagle's article on school outbreaks ("Outbreaks Reported at Humbolt, Long Creek and Prairie City Schools," Sept. 29)

states that at Humbolt eight students and one staff member were infected, according to the OHA outbreak report. In fact, those numbers are six and three, respectively.

Last year the districts made prompt public reports of cases.

This seems to be no longer happening. The fact that the last Humbolt case was discovered on Sept. 6 and we are only hearing about it now is disquieting. Parents are right to express dismay.

Matt Goodwin
Prairie City