



We request the Oregon Legislature approve the Higher Education Coordinating Commission's request for funding of the:

1. Summer Summit for P-20+ counseling/advising staff.
2. The regional achievement collaboratives' support for counseling teams.
3. The Southern Regional Education Board's Go Alliance Academy.
4. The further implementation of the education plan and profile.

We – Holly Thompson and Gene Eakin - are speaking on behalf of school counselors, school counselor educators, and the Reach Higher Oregon team. Here is brief background info about who we are and what we do:

1. Holly: I am a counselor at Rowe Middle School in the North Clackamas SD and I was honored to be named School Counselor of the Year for 2015. I am President-Elect of the Oregon School Counselor Association – OSCA - and I served on the SB 418 Taskforce. I was also a member of the Reach Higher Oregon team that attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> White House Convening on Strengthening School Counseling and College Advising.
2. Gene: I am the School Counseling Program Lead at Oregon State University, Advocacy Chair of the Oregon School Counselor Association, and was team lead for the Reach Higher Oregon career and college readiness teams that attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> White House Convening on Strengthening School Counseling and College Advising in November, 2014 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> White House Convening on Strengthening School Counseling and College Advising in November 2015.

Lori Ellis at the Oregon Student Assistance Commission and Jennell Ives at ODE have already engaged in communicating with a collaborative of partners and agencies to share resources and create common messages regarding the Summer Summit. Funding this Summit provides a tremendous opportunity to bring together school counselors and their administrators, school counselor educators, community college advisors, as well as ASPIRE, GEAR UP, and AVID staff so to better collaborate in helping ALL students Reach Higher. This professional development opportunity as well as others like it will offer career and college program strategies integrating evidence-based practices to improve school systems and supports to ensure career and college readiness for each and every student. School counselors rarely are provided professional development to help them expand their interventions to adhere to ongoing cultural shifts. The Summer Summit and the RAC trainings offer professional development targeted to school counselors on how they can build comprehensive counseling programs encompassing college and career readiness components. College and career readiness starts in elementary school and as

such, it is imperative that trainings be made available to k-12 counselors to help bridge the opportunity gaps for students at all grade levels.

With regard to the SREB Go Alliance Academy: This Academy is being used by 16 states to better prepare school counselors, principals, teachers, and graduation coaches to build college-going cultures for all students; provide students with the college, career, and academic planning support; and, help students with college planning and financial aid. The SREB Go Alliance training has been highlighted at each of the three White House Convenings on Strengthening School Counseling and College Advising as an inexpensive yet best practice in providing professional development.

Finally, we must note our gratitude to the Higher Education Coordinating Committee for recommending financial support for the Education Plan and Profile. Based on the research conducted by Education Northwest, the states that have fully committed to supporting the implementation of Personalized Learning Plans have witnessed improvements in student attendance, academic achievement, college matriculation, and behavior. We request you provide support for this recommendation as well.