

JOINTLY PREPARED BY CENTRAL OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AND CENTRAL OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

2024

Central Oregon Community College

GRANTS IMPACT REPORT

A summary of grant activities and the
educational initiatives and programs they support
at Central Oregon Community College



Central Oregon Community College

received over **\$7.5 million in new grant funds** in 2024, with 38 projects supported. In total, COCC managed **72 active grants in 2024**. New grants ranged from **\$3,000 to \$2.2 million** in size, awarded by private, local, state and federal funders. Thirty-three different organizations and agencies contributed grant funds to COCC in 2024, with funded projects representing the depth and diversity of COCC offerings — from starting an Automotive program in Warm Springs and a Pre-Apprenticeship program in Manufacturing, to developing youth cybersecurity camps and a bachelor's degree in Nursing. Grant funds helped students from across the district — 10,000 square miles in size — achieve their academic and career goals, with funding affecting all four campuses: Bend, Redmond, Prineville and Madras. **This report highlights just some of the impactful grant-funded projects in 2024.**



2024 GRANTS IMPACT SUMMARY



72 GRANTS
NEW AND EXISTING GRANTS MANAGED



\$7.5 MILLION
NEW GRANTS AWARDED



38 NEW GRANTS
AWARDED

ORGANIZATIONS THAT CONTRIBUTED GRANT FUNDS IN 2024:

PRIVATE

Bloomfield Family Foundation
Central Oregon Health Council
Deschutes Cultural Coalition
Ford Family Foundation
JTMF Foundation
Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund
Meyer Memorial Trust
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship
NeighborImpact
Oregon Community Foundation
Randall Charitable Trust
Reser Family Foundation
Roundhouse Foundation
St. Charles Foundation
U.S. Bank Foundation

FEDERAL

National Endowment for the Arts
National Endowment for the Humanities
National Science Foundation
National Security Agency
U.S. Small Business Administration
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

STATE

Business Oregon
Oregon Department of Education
Oregon Department of Energy
Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
Oregon Lottery Funds
State of Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission
University of Washington Center for Southeast Asia

LOCAL

City of Bend

HEALTH CAREERS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION EXPANSION IN MADRAS.

Funders: Roundhouse Foundation (\$300,000); Ford Family Foundation (\$250,000); M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust (\$500,000); Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund (\$300,000).

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-26.

The Madras campus expansion project took major strides toward becoming a reality in 2024, with groundbreaking occurring in June and major grant funds awarded for the project. In 2024, four Oregon-based nonprofits contributed \$1.35 million toward the project, which will be combined with federal, state, COCC and individual donor funds. The COCC Madras campus expansion project will add a 24,000-square-foot building to the existing campus, and house four standalone, in-demand health and education programs: Nursing, Nursing Assistant, Medical Assisting and Early Childhood Education. Science labs will also serve the new health programs, as well as other degree and certificate programs. An on-site child care facility, managed by The Children's Learning Center of Madras, will create up to 100 new child care spots and integrate directly into the COCC students' learning experience.



GROWING THE NUMBER OF CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN BEND.

Funder: City of Bend.

Amount: \$100,000.

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-25.

COCC's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) started the Early Child Care Business Accelerator program in 2021, with support from numerous funders to address the "child care desert" in Central Oregon. The program provides business advising and financial support to grow the number of child care providers and the number of available child care slots in the region. Due to overwhelming response to the program, the city of Bend contributed extra funds in 2024 to further expand the program and provide the SBDC with aid that can be used for child care providers to become licensed and/or make physical improvements to their facility. Up to 16 child care providers will be assisted through these funds.

EXPANDING COCC'S GED PROGRAMS.

Funder: State of Oregon
Higher Education
Coordinating Commission.

Amount: \$190,000.

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-25.

COCC's Adult Basic Skills program offers programs for adults to improve their reading, writing and math skills, including a program to help students prepare for, and successfully pass, the General Educational Development (GED) test. Grant funds were awarded to COCC to help improve GED preparation programs, including hiring a GED success coach who will help tutor students and advise them in their transition to college coursework. Additionally, the grant will support the creation of an online GED preparation option. Overall, the project will increase the number of adults who enroll in GED preparation courses, successfully complete their GED, and go on to enroll in college-level coursework.



Expanding Public Health Education.

Last year saw the continued expansion of Public Health programs at COCC, which now include Peer Support Specialist and Community Health Worker, as well as a Certificate of Completion in Community Health. With the help of grant funding, enrollment in these programs continues to grow, and allows for scholarships to be offered to a large number of students. Additionally, grant funding has allowed students to receive paid work experiences with regional employers. With 2024 being one of the first years a full slate of Public Health courses was offered at COCC, 179 students took Public Health courses. The expansion of COCC Public Health programs will allow employers to fill critical gaps in the region's public health workforce, an often-overlooked component of the overall health care system.



HELPING SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS AND ENTREPRENEURS SUCCEED.

Funders: *Business Oregon (\$190,000); U.S. Bank Foundation (\$75,000); National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (\$13,000).*

Year Awarded: *2024.*

Grant Period: *2024-26.*

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at COCC received funds from several organizations to expand its programs that help entrepreneurs start businesses and help existing small business owners succeed. Projects include a “business pitch” competition focused on veteran entrepreneurs, the expansion of advising services for clients with limited English proficiency, and the offering of six-week financial literacy and financial management courses in Central Oregon’s rural areas. Overall, the project helps the SBDC further its mission of empowering small business owners and future entrepreneurs with expert business advice, education and support.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN MANUFACTURING TRADES.

Funder: State of Oregon
Higher Education
Coordinating Commission.

Amount: \$200,000.

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-26.

Manufacturing is one of the fastest-growing industries in Central Oregon and one of the largest employers in the region. To prepare students for entering this highly skilled field, and to provide employers with the trained workers they need, COCC is developing a Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship program. Pre-apprenticeships give students with little to no experience the technical skills required to enter into registered apprenticeships, and preview a field before committing to a full apprenticeship. Because the vast majority of registered apprenticeships end with a family-wage position in the workforce, this training offers a pipeline for students interested in the manufacturing field. Grant funding will help COCC develop this program, and provide students with financial supports to complete the program.



Growing Central Oregon's Pre-Apprenticeship Programs.

Grant funds from various funders such as the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission have allowed COCC's Pre-Apprenticeship programs to significantly expand in recent years. Pre-Apprenticeships are designed to prepare individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to enter a formal registered apprenticeship program, acting as a stepping stone to gain basic skills before fully committing to an apprenticeship. In 2024, COCC was able to start a new Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship program, and expand the Construction pre-apprenticeship program, including offering the first fully mobile cohort. Over 100 students completed these pre-apprenticeships in 2024, preparing students for future careers in high-demand, high-wage industries.

BASIC EDUCATION FOR MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKERS.

Funder: U.S. Department of Education.

Amount: \$2.2 million.

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-29.

In a given year, it is estimated there are over 1,400 migrant/seasonal farmworkers and their families in Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties — with 67% residing in Jefferson County alone. These residents work jobs in agricultural, nursery, greenhouse and forestry fields, and a majority do not have a high school diploma. Most have limited English proficiency. This program allows these residents and their families to attain a GED through English/Spanish GED preparation, and then assists them in receiving their education at COCC or to progress in their careers. Over the five-year course of the grant, it is expected 200 residents will be enrolled in the program, 140 will obtain their GED and 115 will enter the workforce, continue their education and/or enroll in the military.

IMPROVING EARLY LITERACY AWARENESS FOR CENTRAL OREGON EDUCATORS.

Funder: Central Oregon Health Council.

Amount: \$102,000.

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-26.

COCC's Early Childhood Education (ECE) program has a long-term project focused on improving educators' awareness and skills related to the early identification and support for young children experiencing reading difficulties. In 2024, ECE received funding to continue this work through a grant that includes the creation of an Early Literacy Development certificate, enhanced literacy trainings focused on educators in Head Start programs, and increased professional development opportunities for local educators.

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION STUDENTS.

Funder: Roundhouse Foundation.

Amount: \$45,000.

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-25.

2024 marks the fifth year in a row the Roundhouse Foundation has supported Career and Technical Education (CTE) students with equipment and supplies purchases. CTE programs often have expensive materials required to complete programs, such as tools for Automotive or safety equipment for Welding. The additional expense of these items, combined with tuition and fees, can be a barrier for low-income students entering CTE programs. The Roundhouse Foundation provides funds to help students purchase these materials. In 2024, these grant funds impacted 285 students across nine CTE programs, including Nursing, Forestry, Automotive and others.

CYBERSECURITY TRAINING FOR CENTRAL OREGON YOUTH.

Funder: National Security Agency.

Amount: \$60,000.

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-26.

In partnership with Portland State University and several other Oregon community colleges, COCC was awarded funding to develop and implement a cybersecurity camp for youth in summer 2025. Two camps for high school students will be offered, serving a total of 40 students. The camp will enhance students' information security skills and knowledge, and students will be involved in many hands-on activities designed to protect and defend personal privacy and information systems. Topics will include cryptography, digital forensics, computer networking, system penetration testing, and safe behavior online. Students will also meet with cybersecurity professionals and learn about pathways to cybersecurity-related education and careers.

A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN NURSING.

Funder: State of Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

Amount: \$61,000.

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-26.

Together with five other Oregon community colleges, COCC will develop a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (BSN), allowing existing registered nurses (RN) with an associate degree in Nursing to obtain a bachelor's degree without leaving Central Oregon. The curriculum will be shared among the six participating Oregon community colleges, and will be mostly offered online with some in-person instruction and clinical placements. This will be the first bachelor's degree offered at COCC. As more health care facilities prefer or require that RNs have a bachelor's degree, this program will further allow COCC graduates to be competitive in the job market.



Increasing Enrollment in COCC Health Care Training Programs.

Thanks to support from numerous funders such as the Central Oregon Health Council, COCC has been able to employ a health careers outreach coordinator for several years. This staff member partners with local high schools and other organizations to spread awareness about opportunities within COCC's health care training programs, and helps students navigate enrollment. With the help of this position, enrollment in these programs (Nursing, Dental Assisting, etc.) has grown significantly over the last five years, helping ease the workforce shortage in the local health care industry.

REDUCING BINGE DRINKING AMONG YOUNG ADULTS IN CENTRAL OREGON.

Funder: Central Oregon Health Council.

Amount: \$108,000.

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-26.

COCC will partner with Oregon State University-Cascades (OSU-C) to reduce binge-drinking behaviors among students at COCC and OSU-C, and other young adults in Central Oregon. This effort will be led by students at each of the institutions, and will partner closely with the Rethink Your Drink campaign. Among the activities that grant funding will support are a student-led social media and in-person outreach effort, outreach to local businesses and community leaders to provide zero-proof drinks at businesses and events, and student-led research projects on young-adult attitudes toward alcohol. Student research work will be spotlighted at the OSU Research Symposium.

EXPANDING COCC'S CAPACITY TO SERVE LOW-INCOME STUDENTS.

Funder: U.S. Department of Education.

Amount: \$2,200,000.

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-29.

COCC was awarded over \$2 million in grant funds through the U.S. Department of Education's Strengthening Institutions program. This federal program is designed to help community colleges that serve a high number of low-income students. COCC will use grant funds to further develop and implement Guided Pathways (a widely used learning model that helps students plan and complete programs that align with their career and education goals); create a Teaching and Learning Commons for faculty development; build a Student Resources Center where all student services will be located; and implement a unified data analytics solution to help the college better collect, store, analyze and share data. COCC was one of only 31 colleges nationwide to receive this grant in 2024.

Preparing Low-Income Students for Jobs in Computer Information Systems.

Through the support of a six-year National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, COCC is able to support students completing the Computer Information Systems (CIS) program. In 2024, four academically talented, low-income CIS students were awarded \$10,000 scholarships from this NSF grant that covered tuition and fees, plus additional costs of attendance such as housing, food and transportation. In addition to these scholarships, students involved in this project receive academic and workforce transition supports to help ensure they complete college and enter into the CIS workforce. Grant funds such as these provide numerous scholarships to help COCC students achieve their academic goals, supplementing more than \$2 million in scholarships awarded by the COCC Foundation in 2024. Scholarship recipients at COCC have a 55% graduation rate, compared to 22.5% for the general COCC student population, and have a higher GPA and course completion rate as well.



Summer Camps for Youth in Rural Central Oregon.

With the support of the Roundhouse Foundation, COCC’s Community Education department offered 70 youth camps to over 850 children in summer 2024, with approximately half of them being offered at COCC’s branch campuses. Camps encompassed a wide range of subjects such as robotics, visual arts and a theater production of “The Wizard of Oz” in Madras. Summer youth programs have grown significantly over the last several years, doubling the number of camps and participants since 2022. Grants funds have helped expand these offerings, and allowed COCC to offer camps at little or no cost for rural families. An additional grant, from the National Endowment for the Arts, awarded in late 2024, will allow COCC to continue these rural-focused art programs in summer 2025.

IMMERSIVE CHINESE LANGUAGE CAMP FOR YOUTH.

Funder: National Security Agency.

Amount: \$81,000.

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-26.

For the second time, COCC has been awarded a prestigious grant from the National Security Agency's (NSA) STARTALK program to operate an intensive Chinese language summer camp for high school- and college-aged students. Thirty students will be enrolled in 2025's immersive two-week program, going from little to no experience with Chinese to mid-novice or high-novice proficiency and with a deeper understanding of Chinese culture. The aim of the STARTALK program is to increase the number of students nationwide who are proficient in critical languages.



Bringing Renowned Speakers to the Central Oregon Community.

With the support of numerous funders such as the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund and the Deschutes Cultural Coalition, the COCC Foundation's Chandler Lecture Series (CLS) was able to offer a full slate of nationally renowned speakers in 2024. The lineup featured professor Dr. Daniel Wildcat, author TJ Klune and astronaut Dr. Ellen Ochoa, among others. Events were held throughout Central Oregon, including on the Bend campus, at the Tower Theatre and at the Madras Performing Arts Center. All CLS events in 2024 included both a public and student-only component, where students could interact directly with the speakers. A total of 1,927 community members and students attended 17 lecture events.



PREPARING STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS).

Funder: Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

Amount: \$213,000.

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-26.

COCC is undertaking a project with Oregon State University to prepare students for jobs in the fast-growing field of GIS. Over two years, a total of 15 COCC students will receive scholarships that cover full tuition, fees and textbooks. Additionally, students will be provided paid internships with local employers, better preparing them for jobs in the high-demand, high-wage field. Finally, students will be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities to continue on with their education through transfer to OSU's GIS program.

AUTOMOTIVE EDUCATION ON THE WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION.

Funders: Roundhouse Foundation (\$10,000); Oregon Community Foundation (\$30,000); Reser Family Foundation (\$30,000).

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-26.

Funding from these three private philanthropic organizations will allow COCC to develop, expand and implement an Automotive program on-site in Warm Springs at the War Pony Training Center, with a focus on high school-aged students. Up to five Automotive courses will be offered, allowing students to earn a certificate of completion. This certificate will allow students to enter the workforce or seamlessly transition to the full COCC Automotive program with many required courses already completed. The project is a partnership: The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs will provide the classroom and lab space, Jefferson County School District 509J will provide transportation to the War Pony Training Center, and COCC will provide the instruction.

INCREASING DIVERSITY IN COCC'S SCIENCE PROGRAMS.

Funder: *the Bloomfield Family Foundation.*

Amount: \$10,000.

Year Awarded: 2024.

Grant Period: 2024-25.

COCC's Science department once again received funding to operate an outreach and college "bridge" program that focuses on bringing more rural students and students of color into science fields, and helping those students succeed in college-level science courses. The outreach portion of the program brings rural middle school students to COCC three times per year to meet with science faculty, engage in hands-on science projects and get to know a college campus. For many of these students, these field trips are their first time on a college campus. The summer bridge hosts incoming high school students for a weeklong program which includes science instruction and a hands-on research project. This introduction to college-level science prior to starting college is proven to increase student success.



Helping Students with Disabilities Enter the Workforce.

Through the State of Oregon's Inclusive Career Advancement Program, COCC assists individuals with disabilities — coping with things like hearing loss, back pain and traumatic brain injury — to connect with career support and training after they receive vocational rehabilitation. One such student recently completed his GED through Adult Basic Skills at COCC and earned a certificate as a Peer Support Specialist. He's now employed as an addiction recovery specialist and pursuing a certificate in Community Health as a COCC Foundation scholarship recipient. He plans to earn a transfer degree, and ultimately a bachelor's degree, in Public Health.



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