

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

2023

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 **\$8.5 million** in new grant funds in 2023, with 40 projects receiving funding. In total, COCC managed nearly **\$16 million** in grant funds in 2023, impacting over **60** projects. New grants ranged from **\$750** to **\$3 million** in size, awarded by private, local, state and federal funders. Forty-four different organizations and agencies contributed grant funds to COCC in 2023, with funded projects representing the depth and diversity of COCC offerings — from expanding child care and solar energy to improving veterans’ services and summer learning for K12 students. Grant funds helped students from across the COCC district — 10,000 square miles in size — achieve their academic and career goals, with funding affecting all four COCC campuses: Bend, Redmond, Prineville and Madras. **This report highlights just some of the impactful grant-funded projects funded in 2023.**

2023 GRANTS IMPACT SUMMARY



\$16 MILLION
TOTAL GRANT FUNDS MANAGED



\$8.5 MILLION
NEW GRANTS AWARDED



40 GRANTS
MANAGED

FUNDERS IN 2023

Bloomfield Family Foundation	Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care
Central Oregon Builders Association	Oregon Department of Education
Central Oregon Health Council	Oregon Department of Energy
Central Oregon STEM Hub	Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
City of Bend	Oregon Small Business Development Network
City of Sisters	Pacific Power
Deschutes County	Robert D. and Marcia H. Randall Charitable Trust
Deschutes Cultural Coalition	Reser Family Foundation
East Cascades Works	Roundhouse Foundation
The Environmental Center	Second Nature
Ford Family Foundation	St. Charles Health System
Gene Haas Foundation	State of Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission
Jefferson County (via Oregon Lottery Funds)	University of Washington Southeast Asia Center
JTMF Foundation	U.S. Bank Foundation
Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation	U.S. Department of Education
Maybelle Clark Macdonald fund	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Meyer Memorial Trust	U.S. Department of Labor
National Endowment for the Humanities	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Science Foundation	U.S. Health Resources and Service Administration
National Security Agency	U.S. Small Business Administration
NeighborImpact	
Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries	
Oregon Business Development Department	
Oregon Community Foundation (via the Fred W. Fields Fund, the Dottie and Eli Ashley Fund, and the McLeary Family Fund)	

CHANDLER LECTURE SERIES.

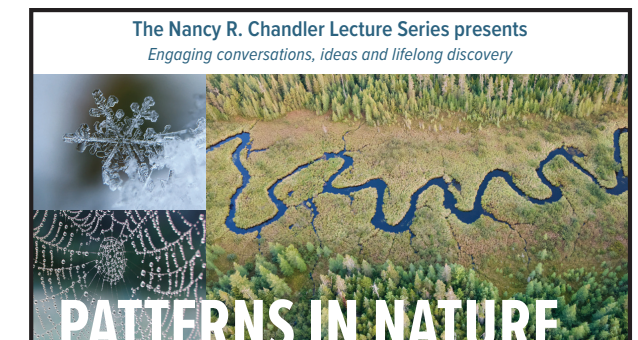
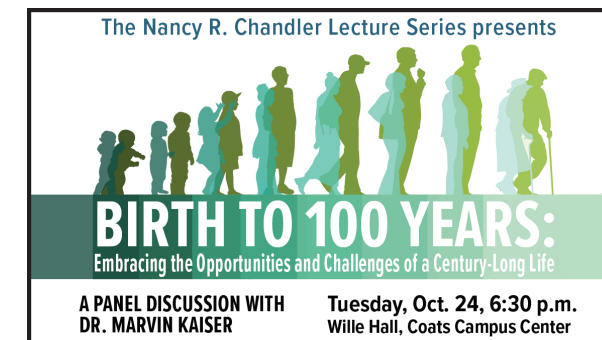
Funder: National Endowment for the Humanities.

Amount: \$60,000.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023-25.

The Chandler Lecture Series, a program of the COCC Foundation, was awarded a prestigious grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop and host six humanities-focused presentations on topics of journalism, social justice, literature, art and other content. COCC's award was part of a new NEH award category called "Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education," and it was one of just 30 such grants awarded across the country — COCC was one of only three community colleges selected. The grant will help further teaching of the humanities at the College and in the community, and will further integrate speakers' content into COCC curriculum, as well as connect speakers with students.



“We plan to host events that focus on Native American and Black cultures, heritage, activism and art, including for our annual Season of Nonviolence commemoration. We'll be collaborating with COCC humanities faculty to further integrate our speakers' content into COCC curriculum, as well as connect speakers with students.”

– Charlotte Gilbride, coordinator of the Chandler Lecture Series, regarding a National Endowment for the Humanities grant

SPANISH FOR FIRST RESPONDERS.

Funder: Deschutes County.

Amount: \$3,000.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023.

COCC's Community Education programs received funding from Deschutes County to offer scholarships for first responders to complete COCC's Central Oregon Summer Spanish Immersion program. COSSI is a four-day Spanish language and cultural immersion program offered at the Redmond campus. Allowing first responders to participate in COSSI helps them better serve the linguistically diverse communities of Central Oregon.

BASIC SKILLS FOR IN-DEMAND JOBS.

Funder: East Cascades Works.

Amount: \$47,500.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023.

East Cascades Works, Central Oregon's local workforce development board, awarded COCC funds to train high school-aged students for jobs in construction and early learning, two in-demand job sectors in the region. In spring and fall of 2023, COCC offered short-duration training courses in these subject areas to give students an intro to the fields, and the basic skills needed to move forward into these careers. Completers of the program were connected to regional employers and apprenticeship partners.



A MOBILE TRAINING UNIT FOR CONSTRUCTION.

Funder: Central Oregon Builders Association.

Amount: \$108,000.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023.

Central Oregon Builders Association donated funds to the COCC Apprenticeship program to help develop a mobile teaching unit, including a truck and trailer equipped with construction tools. This mobile training unit allows COCC to offer construction pre-apprenticeship programs throughout the COCC district, such as at rural high schools. This project is one of several aimed at growing the number of trained construction workers to address the large workforce demand.

SUPPORTING THE INDONESIA FIELD STUDY PROGRAM.

Funder: University of Washington Southeast Asia Center.

Amount: \$12,000.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023-26.

The International Field Study Program-Indonesia is an interdisciplinary educational program established in 1995 in collaboration with the Pusat Studi Satwa Primata (Primate Research Center) at the Institut Pertanian Bogor (Bogor Agricultural University) in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia. The program is designed to provide field-based educational, training and research opportunities for individuals interested in conservation psychology, animal behavior, primatology, environmental science and global health. The UW Southeast Asia Center provided funds for general program support.

“Field research is not for everybody, but the program is designed to give students a taste of what that lifestyle would be like in a relatively safe, protected environment, where there’s hopefully lots of gain and very little risk. The Indonesia Field Study program is an opportunity for students to get outside of their life experience and look at something new and see if it’s for them.”

– Matthew Novak, Psychology faculty member, on the Indonesia Study Abroad program

PRE-APPRENTICESHIPS IN CONSTRUCTION.

Funders: Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries and Oregon Department of Education.

Amount: \$510,000.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023-25.

COCC received additional funding to expand pre-apprenticeship programs for construction in Central Oregon, in partnership with Heart of Oregon Corps. Funds will be used to hire instructors and pay for scholarships and wraparound services, such as child care for program participants. Pre-apprenticeship programs give participants the basic skills and education needed to enter a registered apprenticeship program with a local company. Construction is an in-demand sector in Central Oregon, with many job openings expected over the next decade.

EXPANDING YOUTH PROGRAMS IN RURAL CENTRAL OREGON.

Funders: Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation and Roundhouse Foundation.

Amount: \$57,500.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023.

COCC's Community Education department received funding from two private foundations to expand capacity and offer youth programs in rural areas of Central Oregon. With the support of the Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation and Roundhouse Foundation, COCC offered 41 camps in summer 2023, serving 479 youth. Thanks to this support, 161 students in rural areas were able to attend these programs at no cost. Each youth program is tied to specific academic areas at COCC, taught by college instructors, giving youth the sense and feeling of empowerment that they, too, can attend college. Camp topics included STEM-based learning, including coding, gaming and digital arts. Leadership campus included Mock Trial and Model UN, and many other fun and educational activities, such as Manga Drawing, Theater and Visual Arts, Baking & Pastry and more.



HEALTH CAREERS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION EXPANSION IN MADRAS

Funders: NeighborImpact (\$525,000); Oregon Lottery Funds (\$4.1 million); JTMF Foundation (\$1 million).

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023-26.

In 2023, numerous organizations generously provided funding toward construction of the COCC Madras campus expansion. On land generously donated by the Bean Foundation, COCC is building an approximately 24,000-square-foot building. It will house four standalone, in-demand health and education programs that branch from well-established COCC educational tracks: Nursing, Nursing Assistant, Medical Assisting and Early Childhood Education, the latter delivered in both English and Spanish. 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.



“Thanks to these state funds, we are closing in on our goal to train skilled nurses, medical assistants, certified nursing assistants and early childhood educators in Jefferson County. Students from Warm Springs to Madras to Culver will soon have more options to pursue affordable higher education where they live, and to earn family wages in high-demand careers in their home communities.”

– Dr. Laurie Chesley, president of COCC, on the Madras campus expansion

GROWING THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE TECHNICIAN WORKFORCE.

Funder: National Science Foundation.

Amount: \$2,990,000.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023-26.

COCC was awarded nearly \$3 million to help expand the electric vehicle technician workforce. The funding comes from the National Science Foundation and will support further development of COCC's National Engineering and Vehicle Technology Exchange, a project first started over 10 years ago with a small NSF grant. The project will help 15 partner community colleges develop their EV technician training programs, and will further the development and implementation of a national EV technician certification program. COCC Automotive Technology faculty member Ken Mays, who was named 2023 Educator of the Year Award at the National Science Foundation's recent High Impact Technology Exchange Conference, will lead the project.

“This major federal investment in Central Oregon Community College will generate big gains for students eager to be trained in the good-paying jobs that are growing as part of the green energy economy. I'm gratified that COCC has earned these resources to build out EV-technician training for Central Oregon. And I'll keep battling to ensure every part of Oregon secures similar job training gains from our country's clean energy future.”

– U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, on the National Science Foundation electric vehicle grant



SOLAR ENERGY AT THE MADRAS CAMPUS.

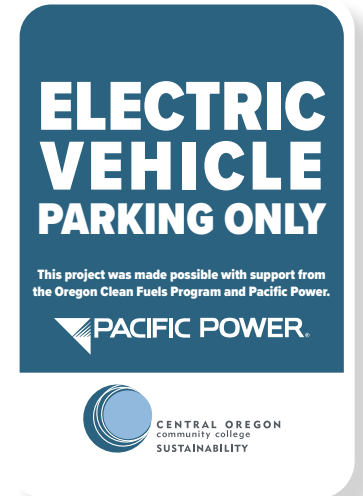
Funder: Oregon Department of Energy.

Amount: \$70,000.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023-25.

A grant from the Oregon Department of Energy, in conjunction with community investment funds raised through the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative and various tax credits, will fund the construction of a solar power array on the COCC Madras campus. The solar array will allow the Madras campus to be run almost exclusively off solar power. This project is another step in COCC's sustainability efforts, including installing EV chargers at all campuses and utilizing a large solar array to power the COCC Redmond campus.



BUILDING SKILLS FOR EARLY LEARNING EDUCATORS.

Funder: Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care.

Amount: \$220,000+ for COCC students in Early Childhood Education.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023-25.

Partners in Practice is a grant program that allows existing staff or volunteers in early learning programs to receive education, training and professional development opportunities. It is a partnership between COCC and NeighborImpact Child Care Resources. The program involves scholarships, flexible class offerings, intentional outreach, course relevancy, alignment with state and regional goals, diverse opportunities for professional growth and whole student support, all of which are available for early childhood education providers, employees and volunteers. While the program was extended in 2023, this is an existing program that has benefited many COCC Early Childhood Education students since 2014.

GROWING THE CENTRAL OREGON EDUCATOR WORKFORCE FROM WITHIN.

Funder: Oregon Department of Education.

Amount: \$562,000.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023-25.

COCC's Education program was awarded a grant through the Grow Your Own program, a State of Oregon initiative aimed at diversifying the educator workforce and training local residents to be educators within their hometowns. While COCC has been a partner in several Grow Your Own programs in the past, this is the first time COCC will lead its own grant. The project will feature many aspects, including outreach to prospective educators, scholarships and stipends for students completing their education coursework at COCC, paid field placements for COCC students, and professional development opportunities for existing school district staff.

CAREER PATHWAYS.

Funder: Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

Amount: \$572,000.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023-25.

Funds were awarded to COCC to continue the College's Career Pathways work which focuses on connected education and training programs and student support services, enabling individuals to secure a job or advance in an in-demand occupation. For 2023-25, COCC will focus on areas such as expanding Credit for Prior Learning opportunities, where students can earn credit for their job experience or other trainings outside the classroom, and develop new courses that support students getting into Career and Technical Education programs.



GROWING THE NUMBER OF CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN CENTRAL OREGON AND BEYOND.

Funder: JTMF Foundation.

Amount: \$120,000.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023-24.

COCC's Small Business Development Center started the Early Childhood 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. Because of the program's great success, leaders from across the state are seeking to replicate the program in their areas. Grant funding from JTMF will help provide \$5,000 in seed grants for child care providers in Lane County, the Columbia Gorge, and Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties to expand capacity in these regions, with COCC's SBDC providing the leadership to replicate this program across Oregon.



PROVIDING TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT FOR STUDENTS.

Funder: Roundhouse Foundation.
Amount: \$45,000.
Year Awarded: 2023.
Grant Period: 2023-24.

In 2023, the Roundhouse Foundation once again provided COCC students in select Career and Technical Education programs with needed equipment and supplies. This is the fourth consecutive year that Roundhouse has provided this support, and in 2023 the amount awarded increased from \$30,000 to \$45,000. These funds help students purchase things like fire boots, stethoscopes and automotive tool sets, which otherwise might be a financial burden for students in these programs.

CONNECTING STUDENTS TO CRITICAL RESOURCES.

Funder: Higher Education Coordinating Commission.
Amount: \$177,140.
Year Awarded: 2023.
Grant Period: 2023-25.

COCC's grant with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission was renewed in 2023 to continue programs to connect students in need with resources. This grant pays for COCC's Benefits Navigator, a partnership with Thrive Central Oregon. The Benefits Navigator helps students access SNAP food benefits, housing assistance and other basic needs resources. This grant is part of Oregon House Bill 2835, first passed in 2021, which created a Benefits Navigator at all public community colleges and universities in Oregon.

LATINX STUDENT SUCCESS.

Funder: Oregon Department of Education.
Amount: \$41,308.
Year Awarded: 2023.
Grant Period: 2023-25.

In 2023, COCC once again partnered with several community organizations across Central Oregon to receive funding for projects that boost the success of Latinx students in the region. Partners on this project include organizations such as the Latino Community Association, Bend-La Pine School District, and the High Desert Education Service District. At COCC, funds will be used to operate programs that encourage Latinx high school students to consider careers in education, and to operate the ¡AVANZA! program and GANAS EDÚCATE summer symposium, which prepare high school Latinx students for college success.

BUILDING THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE.

Funder: Central Oregon Health Council.
Amount: \$100,000.
Year Awarded: 2023.
Grant Period: 2023-25.

As hospitals and medical offices in Central Oregon continue to face staffing shortages, COCC plays a large role in developing the future health care workforce to ease these shortages. Funding was secured from the Central Oregon Health Council to continue the successful Health Careers Outreach Coordinator position. This COCC staff member provides outreach at high schools and community events around the region, encouraging residents to enroll in Health Careers programs at COCC and to consider careers in health care. Partly as a result of this outreach, the Health Careers programs have seen sustained enrollment growth over the past several years, allowing many students to fill needed positions around the region.





COLLEGE PREPARATION FOR LATINX AND NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS.

Funder: Central Oregon Health Council.

Amount: \$30,000.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023-25.

Funding from the Central Oregon Health Council will go toward summer symposiums for Latinx (GANAS Educate) and Native American (STRIVE) high school students. These symposiums introduce high school students to the college experience through structured academic, leadership and cultural activities. The goal of these programs is to expose students to different elements of the college experience that will better prepare them for the transition from high school to college. GANAS and STRIVE offer a dynamic curriculum that integrates leadership, college preparation and culturally relevant themes.

INCREASING DIVERSITY IN COCC'S SCIENCE PROGRAMS.

Funders: Central Oregon Health Council (\$20,000); the Robert D. and Marcia H. Randall Charitable Trust (\$10,000); the Bloomfield Family Foundation (\$10,000); and the Oregon Community Foundation (\$20,000).

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023-25.

COCC's Science departments 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 in 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 portion of the program hosts incoming high school students for a week-long 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.

COCC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN.

Funder: Second Nature.

Amount: \$5,000.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023-24.

COCC received funding from Second Nature to help the College complete a Climate Action Plan. This plan will help the College meet its recently signed President's Climate Pledge, which was signed in early 2023. The national pledge is a "carbon commitment" for higher education institutions that initiates a series of steps to strategically reduce the College's carbon footprint.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE NOW COURSES.

Funder: Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

Amount: \$50,000.

Year Awarded: 2023.

Grant Period: 2023-25.

College Now offers the opportunity for Central Oregon high school students to earn college credit while attending high school. Courses are taught at local high schools during school hours by COCC-approved high school instructors, with students receiving college credit for the courses. Courses range from Math, Writing and History to Automotive Technology, Criminal Justice, Culinary and more. These courses offer students an excellent opportunity to earn affordable college credits prior to graduating high school. Despite the overall low cost of College Now, these courses still represent a financial barrier for many young students. Funding from this grant will allow COCC to pay these College Now fees for eligible students.

EXPANDING SERVICES FOR STUDENT VETERANS.

Funders: U.S. Department of Education (\$600,000) and Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (\$81,128).
Year Awarded: 2023.
Grant Period: 2023-25.

COCC has one of the highest percentages of student veterans of any community college or public university in Oregon. To better serve this student population, the College received two large grants in 2023: the Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success grant (federal) and the Campus Veterans Resource Center grant (state). These two grants will allow COCC to expand the current Veterans Lounge into a Student Veterans Resource Center, support the current COCC Veterans Coordinator, hire a Veterans Outreach Coordinator and train faculty and staff in how to better serve student veterans, among other activities.

“It was clear during my recent visit that Central Oregon Community College has an ear to the ground of what its students need to do their best work. COCC attracts some of the greatest numbers of student veterans among Oregon’s colleges and universities, so setting up lasting support structures is crucial to ensuring that these Oregonian veterans succeed in higher education and beyond.”

– U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, on COCC’s Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success grant

COCC FOOD BANK EXPANSION.

Funder: Central Oregon Health Council. Amount: \$125,000.
Year Awarded: 2023.
Grant Period: 2023-28.

Over the past few years, food insecurity in Central Oregon and among COCC students has continued to increase. As a result, COCC has expanded its Food Bank with a dedicated space. Funding from the Central Oregon Health Council, along with continued contributions from NeighborImpact and the Associated Students of COCC, will allow COCC to continue serving students who are experiencing food insecurity.

SMALL BUSINESS ADVISING FOR RURAL AND LATINX RESIDENTS.

Funder: U.S. Bank Foundation.
Amount: \$15,000.
Year Awarded: 2023.
Grant Period: 2023-24.

The Small Business Development Center received funds for the third straight year to increase its small business advising focused on rural and Latinx residents in Central Oregon. The SBDC offers confidential, one-on-one, complimentary professional business advising services to small business entrepreneurs throughout Central Oregon. The SBDC advising staff assists with starting new businesses, expanding the market, navigating impacts of COVID-19 and planning for resiliency. Through a dedicated business adviser who understands the needs of the Spanish-speaking community, the SBDC is able to better serve a diverse population.





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